



Deborah A. Somerville

Partner

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Deborah is a skilled patent attorney, with extensive experience in the management, protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights.

She advises U.S. and foreign clients in the pharmaceutical, biotech, chemical and medical device industries. Deborah's clients have included emerging companies and global corporations, as well as research institutes and investment firms.

Deborah provides a full range of patent law services to her clients. Clients turn to Deborah to develop and manage robust patent portfolios and strategies, geared towards advancing business plans and corporate growth. She actively guides her clients through the processes of introducing new products and identifying valuable innovations for patenting, in view of the marketplace and the competitive landscape. Deborah's clients benefit from her expertise in providing opinions and analysis on patentability, validity, infringement and freedom to operate. She also conducts due diligence reviews in the context of investments, corporate mergers and acquisitions, technology transfer and licensing and assists her clients in negotiating intellectual property agreements.

Additionally, Deborah has handled patent disputes, including post-grant proceedings and litigation. In advising her clients, she is equipped to draw upon these experiences to reach successful outcomes and resolutions.

Services

- Intellectual Property
- Patents
- Life Sciences
- Emerging Companies & Venture Capital
- IP Transactions & Licensing
- Pharma & Biotech
- Private Equity

Before Fox Rothschild

Prior to joining Fox, Deborah was a partner at an IP boutique law firm.

Beyond Fox Rothschild

Deborah is a U.S. contributing author for *Pharmaceutical, Biotechnology, and Chemical Inventions: World Protection and Exploitation*, which was published by Oxford University Press.

Bar Admissions

- New York
- U.S. Patent & Trademark Office

Court Admissions

- U.S. Court of Appeals, Federal Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York

Education

- University of Michigan Law School (J.D., 1984)
- University of Denver (B.S., *summa cum laude*, 1981)

Memberships

- Licensing Executives Society
- Women in Licensing
- New York Intellectual Property Law Association
- American Bar Association, Intellectual Property Law and Litigation Sections
- American Intellectual Property Law Association
- New York Academy of Science

Honors & Awards

- Selected to the "IAM Patent 1000" list (2013-2025)
- Named an Honorary Member of the National Academy of Inventors (2019)
- New York Biotechnology Association "The Cure Starts Here" Business Leaders of the Year Award
- Named among the "Life Sciences Stars" by *LMG Life Sciences* (2013-2025)
- Named to The Legal 500 USA (2014)