



Crystal Culhane, Ph.D.

Principal
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Overview

Crystal Culhane, Ph.D., applies her extensive academic background in organic chemistry to the practice of patent prosecution in the areas of chemistry, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, oil and gas, food and beverage, and medical devices. Her practice focuses on U.S. and foreign patent prosecution, client counseling, due diligence, patentability and freedom to operate opinions, patent opinions, and post-grant proceedings.

Known as a responsive communicator with a strong depth of knowledge, Crystal works with clients ranging from universities to start-ups and growing companies to multinational organizations to prepare intellectual property strategies that suit their business goals.

Crystal earned her doctorate in chemistry at Johns Hopkins University, where her research focused on the design, synthesis, and evaluation of novel optical and radioactive small molecule prostate cancer imaging agents. She has significant experience in various scientific disciplines, including synthetic organic chemistry, radiochemistry, biology, radiobiology, and small animal imaging.

In recent years, Crystal has worked with a number of pharmaceutical clients in high-impact patent prosecution. Her clients include a large pharmaceutical company for which she has helped develop and manage a portfolio of several hundred patent families and another which in 2021 received its first-ever FDA approval for a new drug that treats a rare liver disease.

Crystal's many pro bono and community contributions reflect her devotion to equality and justice. She currently handles pro bono matters for Casa Cornelia, helping non-U.S. citizens who have been the victims of violence. She is also a mentor to "at-risk" students with Crawford High School's Academy of Law program and a volunteer with City Heights Runners, which provides tutoring and reading programs for high school athletes who are primarily immigrants and refugees. Her work with City Heights Runners is an extension of her own love of running — Crystal has completed 35+ marathons and two ultramarathons.

A leader at Fish & Richardson, Crystal is a previous co-chair of the firm's Allyship Affinity Group and a former member of the firm's Diversity Advisory Committee. She was also the local liaison for Fish's U.S. Space & Rocket Center Space Camp scholarship program, which engaged underrepresented middle school students in STEM fields.

**Not admitted to practice in Minnesota. Work conducted in Minnesota is directly supervised by a member of the Minnesota bar or is limited to U.S. federal courts and agencies listed in admissions or otherwise authorized by law.*

Recognitions & awards

Ones to Watch

Best Lawyers 2021-2025

Pro Bono Publico Award

Casa Cornelia Law Center 2022

Rising Star

San Diego Business Journal 2021

Women of Influence in Law

San Diego Business Journal 2021

San Diego's Top Attorneys

San Diego Metro Magazine (SD Metro) 2020

Women of Influence

San Diego Metro Magazine (SD Metro) 2019

Pathfinder

Leadership Council on Legal Diversity 2018

Top 40 Under 40

San Diego Daily Transcript 2018

40 Under 40

San Diego Metro Magazine (SD Metro) 2017

Professional associations

Lawyers Club of San Diego

San Diego Intellectual Property Law Association

National Association of Women Lawyers

News

August 15, 2024

101 Fish Attorneys Included in the 2025 Edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*

August 17, 2023

101 Fish Attorneys Included in the 2024 Edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*

May 23, 2023

Twenty-Three People From Fish & Richardson Honored by California Lawyers Association With Wiley W. Manuel Certificate for Pro Bono Legal Services

October 26, 2022

Fish & Richardson Principal Recognized for Pro Bono Contributions

August 22, 2022

96 Fish Attorneys Included in the 2023 Edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*

January 5, 2022

Fish & Richardson Elevates 17 Attorneys to Principal

November 16, 2021

Crystal Culhane Named *San Diego Business Journal* Leader in Law

November 5, 2021

Fish Attorneys Named Finalists for *San Diego Business Journal* "Leaders in Law" Award

August 19, 2021

Fish Attorneys Recognized in 2022 Edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*

July 9, 2021

Fish & Richardson Attorneys Megan Chacon and Crystal Culhane Named 2021 Women of Influence in Law by the *San Diego Business Journal*

May 20, 2020

Michael Amon and Crystal Culhane Named to San Diego's Top Attorneys 2020 by *SD Metro Magazine*

July 31, 2019

Fish & Richardson Associate Crystal Culhane named one of the 2019 "Women of Influence" by *San Diego Metro*

May 18, 2018

Dr. Crystal Culhane Named one of San Diego's 40 Under 40

September 27, 2017

Fish & Richardson Attorneys Craig Countryman and Crystal Culhane Named to *SD Metro's* 40 Under 40 List

Additional insights

Publications

- "Interactions between human glutamate carboxypeptidase II and urea-based inhibitors: structural characterization," *Med. Chem.* 51(24):7737-43(2008)
- "N-[N-[(S)-1,3-Dicarboxypropyl]carbamoyl]-4-[18F]fluorobenzyl-L-cysteine, [18F]DCFBC: a new imaging probe for prostate cancer," *Cancer Res.* 14(10):3036-43(2008)
- "Catalytic, asymmetric alpha-chlorination of acid halides," *Am. Chem. Soc.* 126(13):4245-55(2004)

Speaking engagements

- "Protecting your IP from Infringement with Effective Patent Prosecution and Counsel in the Life Sciences," *San Diego Office CLE Event* (January 2018)
 - "Protecting your IP from Infringement with Effective Patent Prosecution and Counsel," *Association of Corporate Counsel – San Diego Chapter Presentation* (December 2017)
 - "Recent Flip-Flops in Intellectual Property Law," *Fish L.E.A.D. Event*, Palo Alto, CA (September 2017)
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Services

Patent

Patent Prosecution

Patent Portfolio Management

Industries

Energy & Chemicals

Petrochemical

Life Sciences

Biotech & Diagnostics

Medical Devices

Pharmaceuticals

Academic Research & Medical Centers

Admissions

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (2010)

California (2014)

Education

J.D. *cum laude*, California Western School of Law (2014) Member of Student Intellectual Property Law Association (SIPLA)

Ph.D., Chemistry, Johns Hopkins University (2008)

B.S., Chemistry, University of St. Thomas (2001)