



American Intellectual Property Law Association  
Serving America's Legal and Creative Community

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## Biotechnology Committee (2013-2014)

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THE OVERALL MISSION OF THE BIOTECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE AS IT RELATES TO AIPLA's **VISION, MISSION, and VALUES**: To realize the promise of Biotechnology in health, energy, environment, and food requires a reliable, global IP system that rewards innovation without inhibiting it and protects investments in new products and new jobs. Biotechnology IP practitioners and companies, however, face very significant challenges in helping the world realize this promise. The overall mission of the Biotechnology Committee is to serve as resource, educator, and advocate for its members, AIPLA, government institutions, and people everywhere so that the promise of Biotechnology may be more fully realized globally.

**2013-2014 WORK PLANS:** The Biotechnology Committee is looking forward to another active year. Because of Jim Kelley's leadership and strategic structuring of the leadership roles within our Committee, we poised to do many exciting new things, as well as continue with the activities and services our committee members desire and expect. We are always looking for new ideas so please contact us with any suggestions or comments. Our plans and goals are based on input we have received from our committee members and the increasing presence of biotech related issues in mainstream media.

In addition to continuing with the activities and services our committee members desire and expect, the Biotechnology Committee's plans and goals for the coming year include:

- 1. Expand Educational Services:** We plan to expand our educational services and activities in two significant ways.
  - A. **Patent Practitioners:** First, we will modify our educational services for biotech patent practitioners by providing more practice tips, pointers, and tools. We are revamping our monthly newsletter, the Biotech Buzz, to provide practice tips and pointers in view of recent court decisions and rule changes impacting biotech patents. We aim to have webinars and/or roadshows with hands-on exercises and interactive discussions geared towards biotech patent attorneys. We have begun discussing ideas for showcasing our committee at the Mid-Winter Expo. We are already working on a program for the Spring meeting which will cover patent term adjustment (PTA) calculations as one day can equal millions of dollars for biotech and pharmaceutical companies.

- B. **Public:** Second, we plan to help educate the public on the importance of biotech patents by writing articles and blogs in plain English. For this objective, we have created a new subcommittee “Public Communications” and are looking at ways to better use social media to reach the public. We will, of course, keep our Board liaison informed and seek approval for items which could likely be inflammatory.

**2. Broaden Breadth of Biotech Issues:** Our committee members have spoken and we listened! We have created three new subcommittees: Industrial Biotech, Biotech Litigation, and PTAB Actions. These subcommittees will provide our committee members with news and information relevant to these areas of practice. We are also modifying the objective of our Technology Transfer and Licensing subcommittee to provide template agreements and clauses relating to biotech inventions along with commentaries discussing the pros and cons, and alternatives.

**3. Strengthen Relationships with Sister Committees/Organizations and the USPTO:**

- A. **Sister Committees/Organizations:** We are forming liaisons with our sister committees and organizations. Within the AIPLA organization, we plan to regularly work with and communicate with our liaisons to other committees such as the Chemical Practice Committee, the Food and Drug Committee, the Education Committee, and the Corporate Practice Committee. We have also formed liaisons with our counterparts in other organizations such as the ABA, BIO, CIPA, EPI, IPO, IPTA, JPAA, and LES. We believe these relationships are important in achieving our goals in the face of increasing hostility towards biotech patents.
- B. We recently modified the title of our USPTO subcommittee to be “USPTO Relations” and expanded its role to review proposed rules and notices published by the USPTO and provide comment thereto when such may impact biotech patent practice. We hope to work closely with the USPTO in a synergistic manner in order to help ensure that any changes to rules and procedures will be beneficial for biotech patent stakeholders and practitioners. Currently, we are working with the USPTO to provide tools and guidance materials that will help ease the burden of sequence listing submissions.

**4. Increase Community Involvement:** Our committee members have asked for more social events. Thus, we are expanding our “social” subcommittees to specific geographical locations in the US and internationally. We have also created a corporate subcommittee and hope to establish a subcommittee for academia and research institutions. We aim for these social subcommittees to organize informal events in which our members can meet and socialize with other members. The regional subcommittee will assist with any roadshows. The international subcommittee will continue with keeping our committee members informed of biotech issues and laws around the world. The corporate subcommittee will help keep our committee members advised of biotech issues specific to in-house/corporate attorneys and practitioners. Similarly, our institutional subcommittee will help keep our committee members informed of biotech issues specific to academia and research institutions.

Last year, we had a social get together at the Annual Meeting. This year, we reached out to the Chemical Practice Committee and arranged a joint social (cash bar) get together for the upcoming Annual Meeting.