Pillsbury’s Life Sciences practice operates at the intersection of science, business and law, providing clients with novel solutions to their unique and complex problems and helping them achieve their goals.

Composed of 140 lawyers and senior advisers, Pillsbury’s Life Sciences team possesses the right combination of legal experience, business acumen and scientific knowledge. For decades, Pillsbury has been helping public companies, startups, nonprofit institutions, entrepreneurs and scientists engaged in the life sciences industry overcome hurdles, leverage opportunities and reach their full potential. We advise on corporate formation, startup funding, venture financing, IPOs, private investment in public equity, credit facilities, corporate governance, SEC compliance, licensing, collaborations, mergers and acquisitions. We help clients obtain and enforce U.S. and international protection, filing and prosecuting thousands of patent applications annually, and working tirelessly to protect trade secrets and other intellectual property rights. Further, our skilled litigators stand ready to protect life sciences clients’ rights in disputes in and out of court throughout the U.S. and around the world.

Team members have industry-specific credentials that span pharmacogenomics, bioinformatics, stem cell technologies, transgenics, gene therapies, diagnostics, receptor-ligand interactions, immunomodulators, genetically modified foods and other emerging industry segments. Many hold Ph.D.s and other advanced degrees in fields like cellular biology, biochemistry, molecular biology, chemical engineering and physics, and others have served as judicial law clerks for the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit and as USPTO examiners.

We pride ourselves on our ability to identify trends, highlight opportunities to enhance our clients’ market position and service all of our clients legal needs. Working collaboratively with lawyers throughout our firm, we regularly advise and assist our life sciences clients regarding:
Corporate, Financial and Transactional

- We advise companies and investors regarding corporate structuring and restructurings, capital formation, corporate governance, antitrust considerations, securities compliance, employment and compensation matters, tax and shareholder issues. Our lawyers help clients raise capital; negotiate and structure international and U.S. licensing and distribution agreements, mergers, acquisitions, strategic alliances, joint ventures, spinoffs and divestitures; navigate legislative and regulatory issues; and advise on development, leasing and acquisition of innovations, R&D and laboratory facilities. Pillsbury has a long history of advising life science companies. We handled the first two IPOs for life sciences companies and we are known for our cutting-edge advice to startups and multinational companies from formation through IPO and beyond.

Emerging Growth & Venture Capital

- Top-tier ranked by 2016 Best Lawyers in America and Chambers USA, Pillsbury’s Emerging Growth & Venture Capital team counsels high-growth enterprises and venture capital investors across the U.S. and worldwide. We have taken shoestring startups to market leading positions, regularly assisting in client fundraising efforts, technology transactions and acquisitions. Further, we help emerging company clients and investor clients analyze and navigate exit strategies to accomplish their business objectives.

Intellectual Property Protection and Enforcement

- Well versed in a wide range of technologies, our lawyers help life sciences clients capitalize on their intellectual property assets. We prepare and prosecute patent applications; help clients secure patents worldwide; evaluate competitors’ IP positions; negotiate technology and other licensing and collaboration agreements; identify appropriate partners for specific technology development; advise on IP portfolio management and optimization; and conduct complex patent invalidity, infringement, due diligence and freedom-to-operate analyses; and resolve IP-related disputes in and out of court.

Government Relations and Regulatory Matters

- Pillsbury’s award-winning lawyer-lobbyists focus on finding solutions to reduce legal and regulatory risk exposure and maximize opportunities for our clients at all levels of government. Our lawyers have considerable experience representing clients before the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), including the FDA, CDC, NIH and BARDA, and the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) and U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ).

Global Sourcing

- Among the most experienced advisory practices worldwide, Pillsbury’s Global Sourcing & Technology Transactions team is regarded as among the “World’s Best Outsourcing Advisors.” Our firm has negotiated outsourcing agreements (onshore, nearshore and offshore) for systems integration, software licensing, technology acquisition, transfer and distribution, joint ventures, strategic alliances and co-market agreements for clients worldwide, and we regularly devise solutions to outsourcing issues.
Litigation

- Pillsbury’s litigators closely follow the complex issues that challenge the Life Sciences industry and have extensive experience in courts and in arbitration proceedings. Our lawyers assert and defend clients’ rights in disputes regarding activities and demands of competitors, licensors and licensees, collaborators, inventors, shareholders, consumer classes and regulatory organizations. We regularly advise on and resolve disputes regarding intellectual property, joint ventures, patents, partnerships, corporate securities, contracts, trade secrets, unfair competition allegations, and a host of other disputes. Our lawyers represent clients in U.S. and international arenas, including in U.S. district court, Federal Circuit Court, International Trade Commission and U.S. Patent and Trademark Office actions and proceedings.

Representative Experience

In an example of “venture philanthropy” that garnered national attention, brokered the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation’s $3.3 billion sale of drug royalties to raise funding for further therapeutic development.

Achieved a favorable arbitration panel ruling for University of Kansas following years of litigation in a case involving inventorship credit on National Institute of Health-owned patents covering cancer drug formulations.

Represented underwriters Roth Capital Partners, Canaccord Genuity, Oppenheimer & Co. and Craig-Hallum Capital Group in the $76.5 million stock offering by Lannett Co., a pharmaceutical manufacturer and distributor.

Practice Area Highlights

Pillsbury has handled $10 billion+ in venture financing since 1999 for technology and life science startups and ranked fifth on The American Lawyer’s 2013 Corporate Scorecard for most U.S. IPOs handled as issuer’s counsel.


Our team includes one of the most prolific and experienced IPO lawyers in the U.S., who has helped clients in underwriting and public offerings valued at $290 billion+ since 2000.

- The team includes Texas A&M University System’s former General Counsel and Compliance Officer, also led a state-owned bio-manufacturing company that developed and manufactured vaccines and therapeutics for clinical and commercial supply.

- Global Sourcing & Technology Transactions
• *Chambers UK* has recognized Pillsbury’s Outsourcing, Information Technology practices in its 2016 edition.

**Technology Acquisitions and Licensing**

• *Chambers UK* and *Chambers USA* repeatedly recognize Pillsbury’s Outsourcing, Information Technology as among the best globally and *The Legal 500* named Pillsbury as a leader in sourcing.

• International Association of Outsourcing Professionals selected Pillsbury as among the “World’s Best Outsourcing Advisors” (2009 – 2016) and Pillsbury partners made BTI’s 2016 Client Service All-Star List for Global Sourcing.

• Recipient of the European Outsourcing Association’s award for the Best MultiSourcing Project of the Year for a project that streamlined a client’s global supplier base from 300 to three.

• Touted for having “strategy and structure that really facilitates transactions in this space ... and the capacity and resources to deliver on complex transactions.” in Chambers USA client quote.

**Emerging Growth & Venture Capital**

• 2016 *Best Lawyers in America* and *Chambers USA* gave top-tier rankings to our national Corporate, Securities/Capital Markets, Venture Capital and M&A practices.

• Advised on 1,000+ public equity and debt securities offerings with an aggregate value exceeding $350 billion and $10 billion in venture financings since 2000 for technology and life sciences companies.

• Led more than 75 IPOs, as issuer and as underwriter counsel, including the first internet IPO (Netcom), the first SaaS IPO (WebEx) and the first solar IPO (SunPower).

• Team member Allison Leopold Tilley has been named one of *The Recorder*’s Women Leaders in Tech Law for the fifth year in a row.

• For the third year, *The Daily Journal* has named team member Jorge del Calvo to its elite list of California’s top 100 lawyers.