



Melanie Szweras

B.Sc., Ph.D. (Genetics), LL.B.

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Experience

Melanie Szweras is a partner with Bereskin & Parr LLP and member of the Life Sciences practice group. She is also co-leader of the Privacy/Regulatory, Advertising and Marketing practice group.

Melanie's practice focuses on drafting and prosecution of applications relating to biologics, diagnostics, biotechnology, food and pharmaceuticals. Melanie offers strategic advice and expertise to her clients, provides validity and freedom to operate opinions and is involved in related patent litigation and licensing. Melanie also advises on Canadian privacy and life-sciences regulatory and compliance matters for products, such as food, natural health products, medical devices and drugs.

Melanie's privacy work includes advising organizations on compliance with Canadian privacy laws, including PIPEDA, assisting with preparation of privacy policies, terms and conditions, outsourcing agreements and general management of personal information. Her regulatory work includes advising on Health Canada regulated labelling and advertising and on health-related regulations, such as those relating to notices of compliance, certificates of supplementary protection and the Patented Medicines Price Review Board.

Melanie lectures on aspects of Biotechnology and The Application Process at the University of Toronto's Patent & Trade Secrets Law course and Osgoode Hall's LLM Patent Law course. Melanie is the Vice-Chair of the Continuing Professional Development Committee for IPIC and is a past Chair of the Intellectual Property Institute of Canada's (IPIC) Biotechnology Patents Committee. Melanie also is the Issues Leader of the American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA) Biotechnology Committee.

Melanie received numerous awards throughout her education, including the Medical Research Council Studentship and a University of Toronto Open Scholarship. She was also the Bronze Medalist for her class of 2003 at Osgoode Hall Law School.

Practice Groups

- Cannabis
- COVID-19
- Licensing & Transactions
- Life Sciences
- Litigation
- Medical Devices
- Patents
- Plant Breeders' Rights
- Privacy, Cybersecurity & Data Protection
- Regulatory, Advertising & Marketing

Education

- LL.B., Osgoode Hall Law School, 2003
- Ph.D. (Genetics), University of Toronto, 2000
- B.Sc. (Genetics), University of Toronto, 1994

Qualifications

- Registered Canadian Patent Agent, 2006
- Registered United States Patent Agent, 2006
- Admitted to the Ontario Bar, 2004

Professional Memberships

- American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA)
- Intellectual Property Institute of Canada (IPIC), Fellow
- Law Society of Ontario (LSO)
- Women in Bio (WIB)



Recent Articles

- Privacy Update – New Laws and Cases of Interest
- Chirality Matters: Dismissal of Janssen’s Judicial Review Confirms Enantiomers Are Not “Innovative Drugs” for Obtaining Data Protection
- Patented Medicines Regulations: The Problem Is Not in Collecting the Data, but in How You Use It!
- USSC Agrees to Reconsider Amgen Inc. v Sanofi on Enablement of Antibody Genus Claims
- PMPRB Regulations Saga Coming to an End? New Draft Guidelines Issued

Accolades

- Bereskin & Parr Professionals Listed in the 2023 Canadian Legal Lexpert® Directory
- Bereskin & Parr Professionals Recognized in the 2022 Expert Guides: Women in Business Law
- Bereskin & Parr Partners Listed in 2023 Best Lawyers in Canada
- Six Bereskin & Parr Professionals Recognized in 2021 Expert Guide: Women in Business Law
- 25 Bereskin & Parr Lawyers Listed in 2022 Best Lawyers in Canada