

David Lu

Partner

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OVERVIEW

David Lu is a *Chambers USA* and LMG Life Sciences-recognized patent lawyer and a leader in intellectual property strategy and portfolio management. He is a partner in the firm's Intellectual Property practice, where he advises clients in the life sciences sector on patent prosecution, strategic IP portfolio development, and intellectual property due diligence related to mergers, acquisitions, licensing transactions, and investment activities. David has designed and implemented global patent strategies across the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries and has managed high-impact portfolios for international enterprises, mid-sized biotechs, and venture-backed startups. He also provides patent landscape analysis, freedom-to-operate assessments, and patentability evaluations to support clients' innovation and commercialization efforts.

David brings a comprehensive background in life sciences and intellectual property law, with experience spanning a diverse array of technologies, including monoclonal antibodies, antibody-drug conjugates, mRNA therapeutics, siRNA modalities and delivery platforms, gene and cell therapies, genome editing systems, personalized medicine, small molecule pharmaceuticals, plant microbes, diagnostic assays, medical devices, and laboratory instrumentation. He advises across a wide spectrum of therapeutic areas, such as immuno-oncology, infectious diseases, autoimmune disorders, and rare genetic conditions, helping clients protect and leverage their innovations. David aligns intellectual property strategies with each client's scientific strengths and commercial goals, delivering tailored, forward-thinking legal solutions that support innovation and long-term growth.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Prior to joining the firm, David served as a partner and co-lead of the life sciences group at a US-based law firm. Before transitioning into his legal profession, David conducted cancer research at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Harvard Medical School, contributing to advancements in DNA damage response and BRCA1 biology, with emphasis on molecular mechanisms and microRNA-mediated regulation. His earlier academic work at Duke University focused on RNA biology and virology, exploring mRNA and viral microRNA biogenesis. David has authored numerous peer-reviewed publications in leading scientific journals and presented his research at renowned international conferences.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Recognized by *Chambers USA* for Intellectual Property in Massachusetts, 2024-2026
- Recognized by *The Legal 500 United States* as a Recommended Lawyer for Patents: Prosecution (Including Re-Examination and Post-Grant Proceedings), 2026
- Recognized by *LMG Life Sciences* for Patent Prosecution, 2025
- Selected to the Massachusetts Rising Stars list for Intellectual Property, 2019-2023
- National Institute of Health (NIH) Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Individual Fellowship, 2007-2008

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Member, Boston Intellectual Property Law Association (BIPLA)
- Member, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA)
- Member, Asian American Lawyers Association of Massachusetts (AALAM)
- Member, Duke Boston Regional Board
- Boston Regional Co-Chair, Duke Asian Alumni Alliance (DAAA)
- Leadership Councils, Health Care and Life Sciences, Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- “The Three Pillars of Your Patent Prosecution: Innovation, Insights & Strategy,” CenterForce IP Strategy Series, Boston, MA, 15 June 2023

EDUCATION

- J.D., Suffolk University Law School, *(Intellectual Property Law Concentration with Distinction)*
- Ph.D., Duke University, *(Molecular Genetics and Microbiology)*
- M.S., Fudan University, *(Genetics)*
- B.S., Fudan University, *(Biochemistry)*
- Certificate, Duke University, *(Bioinformatics and Genome Technology)*

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of Massachusetts

- United States Patent and Trademark Office
- United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit

LANGUAGES

- Chinese (Mandarin)
- English
- Shanghainese

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- October 2025, September and October 2025 Accolades

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Co-author, "Evolutions and investments in life sciences: Q&A with partners David Lu and Hannah Koyfman of K&L Gates," *Boston Business Journal*, 1 September 2025
- Co-author, Physiological modulation of endogenous BRCA1 p220 abundance suppresses DNA damage during the cell cycle. Genes Dev. 27(20): 2274-91. (2013)
- Co-author, Further evidence for BRCA1 communication with the inactive X chromosome. Cell 128(5): 998-1002. (2007)
- Co-author, Epstein-Barr Virus microRNAs are evolutionarily conserved and differentially expressed. PLoS Pathog. 2(3):e23. (2006)
- Co-author, Kaposi's sarcoma associated herpesvirus expresses an array of novel viral microRNAs in latently infected cells. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U S A 102(15): 5570-75. (2005)
- Co-author, Adenovirus VA1 non-coding RNA can inhibit small interfering and microRNA biogenesis and function. Journal of Virology 78(23): 12868-76. (2004)
- Co-author, Nonsense mediated decay induced by tethered human UPF3B is restricted to the cytoplasm. RNA Biology 1(1): 42-47. (2004)
- Co-author, Exon junction complexes mediate the enhancing effect of splicing on mRNA expression. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U S A 100(20): 11327-32. (2003)
- Co-author, Analysis of the stimulatory effect of splicing on mRNA production and utilization in mammalian cells. RNA 9(5): 618-30. (2003)

NEWS & EVENTS

- 4 June 2026, K&L Gates Receives Nearly 235 Firm, Individual Rankings in 2026 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 5 June 2025, K&L Gates Receives More Than 240 Firm, Individual Rankings in 2025 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 7 November 2024 - 10 November 2024, 2024 NAPABA Convention, Hosted by National Asian Pacific American Bar Association
- 6 June 2024, K&L Gates Receives More Than 200 Firm, Individual Rankings in 2024 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 9 March 2022, K&L Gates Continues IP Practice Growth, Bolsters Pharma, Biotech Capabilities With Addition of 10-Person Patent Team in Boston

AREAS OF FOCUS

- IP Procurement and Portfolio Management

INDUSTRIES

- Healthcare
- Life Sciences
- Manufacturing
- Pharmaceuticals, Biologics, and Medical Devices