

Alisha Contractor, PhD

Patent Agent



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Practice Areas

Intellectual Property Protection

Education

University of California, Berkeley
PhD (2018) Chemical Biology

University of West Georgia
BS (2013) Chemistry

Admissions

U.S. Patent & Trademark Office

Dr. Alisha Contractor assists Choate's life sciences clients by utilizing her background in chemical biology and chemistry to help with the preparation and prosecution of patent applications, as well as freedom-to-operate and patentability analyses. She routinely counsels clients on their patent portfolio management and prosecution strategy for national and international applications in various fields, including small molecule therapeutics, solar technologies, and materials.

Industry Experience

Alisha was a postdoctoral fellow at Seattle Children's Research Institute at the Center for Global Infectious Disease Research. Here, she worked on the synthesis and characterization of novel tuberculosis therapeutics and development of small-molecule probes for elucidating disease mechanisms.

Alisha received her PhD in chemical biology from the University of California, Berkeley. Her dissertation focused on the synthesis and delivery of novel small molecule dyes with enhanced stability and increased tissue penetration for neuronal activity imaging. While pursuing her PhD, she worked as a graduate research assistant working on synthesizing dyes that facilitate imaging activity past the surface of brain tissue with the goal of utilizing these dyes to study how communication between circuits in the brain result in various functions like retinal processing and disease pathogenesis. Alisha received her bachelor of science in chemistry from the University of West Georgia. While there, she was an undergraduate research assistant for multiple principal investigators. Her research spanned multiple areas of focus including the synthesis and analysis of a small molecule receptor: PAIn for transporting ion-pairs across cell membranes, the cooperative ion-pair binding studies of synthetic and naturally occurring ion-pair receptors, and the biological characterization of new photosynthetic mutants of *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii*.

Publications and Presentations

- "Imaging Ca²⁺ with a Fluorescent Rhodol," first author, *American Chemical Society*
- "The crystal structure of a valinomycin•2Ca²⁺ complex and the multi-step solution equilibria in acetonitrile characterised by ¹H NMR, UV-Vis, and mass spectrometry," first author, *Supramolecular Chemistry*