

SUSAN W. GRAF, PH.D.

PARTNER

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OVERVIEW

Sue's practice focuses on the preparation and prosecution of U.S., international, and foreign patent applications. She also prepares legal opinions, including patentability, invalidity, infringement/non-infringement, and freedom-to-operate opinions. Additionally, she prepares and prosecutes trademark applications.

Sue specializes in biotechnical and medical patent applications, including applications relating to medical genetics, immunology, oncology, biochemistry, and plant biology. She has over 17 years of experience preparing and prosecuting patent applications, complemented by more than 10 years of research experience at leading life science research institutions in the U.S. prior to becoming a patent attorney. Her extensive research experience is in the fields of cell and molecular biology, biochemistry, and genetics, including clinical diagnostics.

Sue joined Klarquist in 2007 as an associate, became partner in 2018, and served as the firm's managing partner in 2024-2025.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

► Oregon Health & Science University | Senior Research Assistant, Department of Molecular and Medical Genetics, 2003 – 2005 | Portland, OR
Developed and implemented clinical diagnostic tests for human genetic diseases utilizing technologies such as denaturing high-performance liquid chromatography, real-time PCR, and direct sequencing.

► University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center | Research Associate, Howard Hughes Medical Institute (post-doctoral fellow), 1996 – 1999 | Dallas, TX

Involved in basic research on genetics of retinal degeneration, including creation and analysis of knockout mouse lines, mutation screening in human subjects with retinal degeneration, and biochemical studies of retinal guanylyl cyclase activity.

EDUCATION

J.D., *summa cum laude*,
Lewis & Clark College of
Law, 2007

Ph.D., Cell Biology, Duke
University, 1996

B.A., Biology, College of
Wooster, 1991

ADMISSIONS

Oregon, 2007

U.S. Patent and
Trademark Office, 2007
(Reg. No. 60,432)

PRACTICE AREAS

Patents

Trademarks

Intellectual Property
Counseling

TECHNOLOGY AREAS

Life Sciences &
Biotechnology

Medical Devices &
Diagnostics

Chemical

Plants

Agriculture & Food
Science

Green Technology &
Renewable Energy

Klarquist

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

► Duke University | Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Cell Biology, 1991 – 1996 | Durham, NC
Participated in basic research on biochemical function of dopamine receptors, focused on signal transduction activity of the dopamine D2 and D3 receptors. Extensive experience in biochemical assays of second messenger signaling in cultured cell lines.

HONORS & AWARDS

► *Best Lawyers in America*, Portland, OR | 2027

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Member, Multnomah Bar Association
- Member, Association of University Technology Managers
- Member, Legal Employer Engagement Committee, Convocation on Equality, Oregon State Bar, 2010 – 2013

PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

- Graf, Susan Walmsley, "Improving Patent Quality Through Identification of Relevant Prior Art: Approaches to Increase Information Flow to the Patent Office", 11 Lewis & Clark Law Review 495 (2007).
- Robinson, S.W., Morris, C.D., Goldmuntz, E., Reller, M.D., Jones, M.A., Steiner, R.D., and Maslen, C.L. Missense mutations in CRELD1 are associated with cardiac atrioventricular septal defects. *Am. J. Hum. Genet.* 72:1047-1052 (2003).
- Robinson, S. W., Dinulescu, D. M., and Cone, R. D. Genetic models of obesity and energy balance in the mouse. *Ann. Rev. Genet.* 34:687-745 (2000).
- Robinson, S. W. and Garbers, D. L. Genetic models to study guanylyl cyclase function. *Meth. Enzymol.* 316:558-564 (2000).
- Yang, R.-B., Robinson, S. W., Xiong, W.-H., Yau, K.-W., Birch, D. G., and Garbers, D. L. Disruption of a retinal guanylyl cyclase gene leads to cone-specific dystrophy and paradoxical rod behavior. *J. Neurosci.* 19:5889-5897 (1999).
- Robinson, S. W. and Caron, M. G. Selective inhibition of adenylyl cyclase type V by the dopamine D3 receptor. *Mol. Pharmacol.* 52:508-514 (1997).
- Robinson, S. W. and Caron, M. G. Chimeric D2/D3 dopamine receptors efficiently inhibit adenylyl cyclase in HEK 293 cells. *J. Neurochem.* 67:212-219 (1996).
- Robinson, S. W., Jarvie, K. R., and Caron, M. G. High affinity agonist binding to the dopamine D3 receptor: chimeric receptors delineate a role for intracellular domains. *Mol. Pharmacol.* 46:352-356 (1994).