



Kelvin Legal Intelligence

Plant IP & Agricultural Genetics Expert Attorney Search

Candidate Research Report

● ————— *March 2026*

Prepared by 273 Ventures

mike@273ventures.com · Spring 2026 Sector Report · Confidential

Executive Summary

Search Overview

287K

Attorneys in Database

74

Plant Science + J.D.

14

Plant IP Specialists

Search Parameters: Attorneys with scientific backgrounds in plant biology, botany, crop science, horticulture, or agricultural genetics who practice intellectual property law—particularly plant patents, variety protection, seed IP, and agricultural biotech litigation. Relevant to Solanaceae family (tomato, potato, eggplant, pepper) and broader plant IP disputes.

Engagement Context

Search Brief	Search Methodology
Prepared by: 273 Ventures	Step 1 Query 287K attorneys for plant degrees
Report type: Sector expertise scan	Step 2 Cross-reference with IP practice areas
Domain: Plant IP / Ag-biotech	Step 3 Search bios for plant patent keywords
Focus: Solanaceae / seed IP	Step 4 Pull education, bar, bio records
Scope: Nationwide (US)	Step 5 Score by science depth + IP breadth
Use case: Expert identification	Step 6 Cluster and rank candidates

Scoring Methodology

Candidate Scoring Rubric

Category	Weight	Scoring Criteria
Plant Science Depth	30%	5: Ph.D. plant biology/pathology 4: M.S. plant/crop science 3: B.S. plant/ag
IP Practice Breadth	25%	5: Patent lit. + prosecution + portfolio 3: Patent lit. only 1: General IP
Ag/Seed Relevance	25%	5: Plant patents, PVPA, seed disputes 3: Ag-biotech 1: General life sciences
Firm Platform	20%	5: Global IP firm 4: AmLaw 100 3: Specialty IP boutique

Max: 20 pts. Weighted toward science depth (30%) and ag relevance (25%) since this is an expertise-driven search, not a lateral hire. **A ≥ 16** **B = 12-15** **C = 8-11**

Top Candidates

Tier A Plant IP Experts — Score $\geq 16/20$

Name	Firm	Plant Science	Deg.	Score	Differentiator
Alison J. Baldwin	Baldwin IP PLLC	Plant Pathology + Plant Sci.	M.Ag.	19	Own firm, dual plant degrees, 20 yrs
Tate L. Tischner	Troutman Pepper	Botany	M.S.	19	Plant patents + PVP certificates
Jeffrey A. Masson	Thompson Coburn	Plant Path. + Crop Phys.	M.S.	18	Former crop consultant, seed lit.
Jessica Greenwald	Baker McKenzie	Plant Path. & Microbiology	Ph.D.	18	Global IP firm, Order of the Coif
Janet E. Reed	Potter Anderson	Plant Path. + Ag. Biochem.	Ph.D.	18	DuPont postdoc, ag/food/med patents
Ann Slade	Troutman Pepper	Molecular Bio (plant focus)	Ph.D.	17	Former sr. scientist, crop traits
Ann Bernert	Schwabe Williamson	Plant Molecular & Cell Bio	Ph.D.	17	Ag + pharma patent prosecution
Thomas Hiesberger	Dentons	Plant Bio/Biotech/Ag	Eng.	17	Agribusiness + forest products IP
Morgan Xu	Foley Hoag	Plant Bio (Cell/Mol. Gen.)	Ph.D.	16	Life sciences licensing, Asia deals
K. Lance Anderson	Dickinson Wright	Crop Science + Entomology	M.S.	16	CRISPR, cannabis, tech transfer

Candidate Landscape

Candidate	Score	Cluster	Science	Best Suited For
Alison J. Baldwin	19	Plant Patent Lit.	Plant Path.	Own firm; plant variety patent disputes
Tate L. Tischner	19	Plant Patent Pros.	Botany	Plant patent + PVP certificate prosecution
Jeffrey A. Masson	18	Ag Product Lit.	Crop Phys.	Seed, herbicide, crop damage disputes
Jessica Greenwald	18	Global Patent	Plant Path.	Cross-border plant biotech IP strategy
Janet E. Reed	18	Biotech Counsel	Ag. Biochem.	FTO opinions, ag patent portfolios
Ann Slade	17	Crop Innovation	Mol. Bio.	Novel trait patent prosecution
Ann Bernert	17	Pharma/Ag Patent	Mol. Cell	Ag + vaccine + biotech prosecution
Thomas Hiesberger	17	Agribusiness IP	Plant Bio.	Forest products + ag patent strategy
Morgan Xu	16	Life Sci. Lic.	Cell/Mol.	Plant biotech licensing + Asia
K. Lance Anderson	16	Tech Transfer	Crop Sci.	University IP + CRISPR ag-tech

Clusters: Plant Patent Lit./Pros. Litigate or prosecute plant variety patents Ag Product Lit. Seed/crop damage disputes Crop Innovation Novel traits + biotech **Global/Licensing** Cross-border + tech transfer

Candidate Profiles



Score: 19/20

TIER A

Alison J. Baldwin

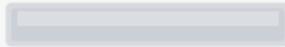
Founder — Baldwin IP PLLC (formerly Faegre Drinker)

 M.Ag. Plant Pathology, NC State

 B.S. Biochemistry & Plant Science, Purdue

 J.D., Chicago-Kent College of Law

 Patent Lit., Patent Pros., Trademark, IP



✓ Dual plant degrees ✓ Founded own IP firm ✓ 20+ yrs IP exp.

Alison J. Baldwin — Why She Fits

Baldwin is the strongest candidate in the pool for plant IP disputes. She holds **two plant science degrees**—a B.S. in Biochemistry and Plant Science from Purdue and an M.Ag. in Plant Pathology from NC State—giving her the scientific foundation to understand plant variety patents, trait claims, and pathogen-resistance technologies at a level most patent attorneys cannot match.

After **20+ years** of pharmaceutical, biotech, and agricultural IP experience at Faegre Drinker (where she litigated in federal courts, the ITC, and PTAB), Baldwin recently **founded Baldwin IP PLLC**, her own plant IP boutique. Her LinkedIn activity shows deep engagement with the ag-tech ecosystem—World Agri-Tech Innovation Summit, Ag Startup Engine, Illinois Soybean Association, and Pan American Seed. She teaches IP trial advocacy at Chicago-Kent and serves on the PTAB Bar Association board.

Best for: Plant variety patent disputes, Solanaceae trait patent litigation, or strategic IP counsel. As a solo practitioner, she may be more accessible and cost-effective than BigLaw alternatives.



Score: 19/20

TIER A

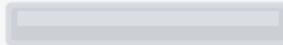
Tate L. Tischner

Partner — Troutman Pepper Locke

 M.S. Botany, Brigham Young University

 J.D., University of Utah

 Plant patents, PVP, patent pros., IPR



✓ Plant patents + PVP ✓ Registered pat. atty ✓ Hemp industry

Tate L. Tischner — Why He Fits

Tischner is a **registered patent attorney** whose bio explicitly lists **plant patents and plant variety certificates**—the exact legal instruments governing tomato cultivars, seed IP, and Solanaceae breeding innovations. His technical background (M.S. Botany from BYU) and patent practice span biotechnology, molecular biology, plants, agricultural technology, and medicinal chemistry.

As managing partner of Troutman Pepper's Rochester office, he handles utility patent prosecution, plant patents, interferences, reexaminations, reissues, foreign oppositions, licensing, and noninfringement/validity opinions. His hemp industry experience shows comfort with regulated agricultural products.

Best for: Prosecuting or defending plant patents and PVP certificates for seed companies, nurseries, or ag-biotech breeders.



Score: 18/20

TIER A

Jeffrey A. Masson

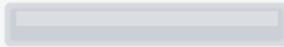
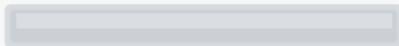
Partner — Thompson Coburn LLP

🎓 M.S. Plant Pathology & Crop Physiology, LSU

🏛️ B.S. Plant and Soil Systems, LSU

🎓 J.D., Southern University

👜 Ag litigation, seed IP, product liability



✓ Former crop consultant ✓ Seed/herbicide lit. ✓ Farm-raised

Jeffrey A. Masson — Why He Fits

Masson is the candidate with the deepest **agricultural industry experience**. A former crop consultant and agronomic specialist who grew up on a Louisiana rice farm, he incorporates field-level knowledge into his legal practice. He holds dual plant science degrees from LSU (M.S. Plant Pathology & Crop Physiology + B.S. Plant and Soil Systems).

At Thompson Coburn, he represents agribusiness and biotech clients in national and international disputes involving **seeds, herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, fertilizers**, and other agricultural products. His cases include patent infringement, crop damage, yield reduction, and marketing misconduct—exactly the disputes that arise in the tomato seed and Solanaceae breeding industry. He is admitted in the Federal Circuit and multiple district courts.

Best for: Seed IP disputes, crop damage litigation, herbicide/pesticide claims, or ag-biotech product liability.



Score: 18/20

TIER A

Jessica Greenwald

Partner — Baker McKenzie

🎓 Ph.D. Plant Pathology & Microbiology, Texas A&M

🏛️ J.D., SMU Dedman (Order of the Coif)

👜 Patent disputes, prosecution, global portfolio



✓ Global IP firm ✓ Plant pathology Ph.D. ✓ Order of the Coif

Jessica Greenwald — Why She Fits

Greenwald combines a **Ph.D. in Plant Pathology and Microbiology** from Texas A&M with a J.D. from SMU (Order of the Coif, SMU Law Review editor) and a partnership at **Baker McKenzie**—one of the largest global law firms. Her doctoral research focused on iron regulatory networks of bacterial pathogens, giving her deep understanding of plant-microbe interactions relevant to Solanaceae disease resistance traits.

Her IP practice spans patent disputes, prosecution, portfolio strategy, global patent assignments, and IP in business transactions. Baker McKenzie's global platform means she can coordinate plant patent protection across jurisdictions—critical for seed companies operating internationally.

Best for: Global plant biotech IP strategy, cross-border patent portfolio management, or plant pathogen-related patent disputes.



Score: 17/20

TIER A

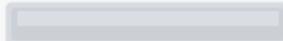
Ann Slade

Patent Agent — Troutman Pepper Locke

 Ph.D. Molecular Biology, U. Washington

 B.S. Genetics, UC Davis (high honors)

 Life sciences + plant biotech IP



- ✓ Former sr. scientist
- ✓ Nature Biotech published
- ✓ Crop trait inventor

Ann Slade — Why She Fits

Slade is unique in this pool because she is a **former senior scientist** who worked at multiple agricultural biotechnology companies **developing crops with novel traits** before becoming a patent agent. She is an inventor on multiple patents and has published in **Nature Biotechnology**, BMC Plant Biology, and Plant Physiology—top-tier plant science journals.

Her UC Davis Genetics degree (high honors) and UW Molecular Biology Ph.D. give her the strongest bench-science credentials in the pool. While she is a patent agent (not an attorney), she works alongside Tate Tischner at Troutman Pepper's Rochester office on health sciences and agricultural IP.

Best for: Technical patent prosecution for novel crop traits, plant biotech inventions, or expert consultation on plant molecular biology claims.



Score: 17/20

TIER A

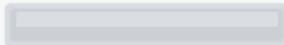
Ann Bernert

Of Counsel — Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt

 Ph.D. Plant Molecular & Cellular Biology, UF

 J.D., U. Florida (cum laude)

 Ag + pharma patent prosecution



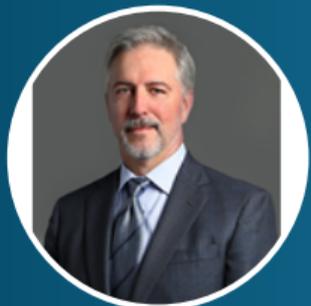
✓ Plant molecular bio Ph.D. ✓ Ag + pharma IP ✓ Recently qualified

Ann Bernert — Why She Fits

Bernert brings the freshest academic credentials in the pool—she completed her **Ph.D. in Plant Molecular and Cellular Biology** at the University of Florida in 2020, then earned her **J.D. cum laude** from the same institution in 2023. Her doctoral work gives her deep fluency in the molecular techniques (gene editing, transformation, expression analysis) that underpin modern plant variety patents.

At Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt, she focuses on patent prosecution and IP portfolio development in the pharmaceutical, medical, and agricultural industries. Before law school, she worked at a boutique IP firm preparing and prosecuting patent applications for vaccines, antibodies, and other biotech products—experience that bridges ag-biotech and pharma IP in exactly the way plant trait patents demand. Her dual B.S./B.A. from Oregon State (Bioresource Research and International Studies, cum laude) adds a global perspective.

Best for: Patent prosecution for plant molecular biology inventions, ag-biotech portfolio development, or clients needing both pharma and agricultural IP expertise.



Score: 16/20

TIER A

K. Lance Anderson

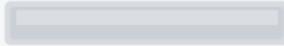
Member — Dickinson Wright PLLC

🎓 M.S. Crop Science, Texas Tech (magna)

🏛️ B.S. Entomology, Texas Tech (magna)

🎓 J.D., Texas Tech School of Law

👜 Biotech, IP licensing, tech transfer



✓ CRISPR expertise ✓ Crop sci + entomology ✓ Tech transfer

K. Lance Anderson — Why He Fits

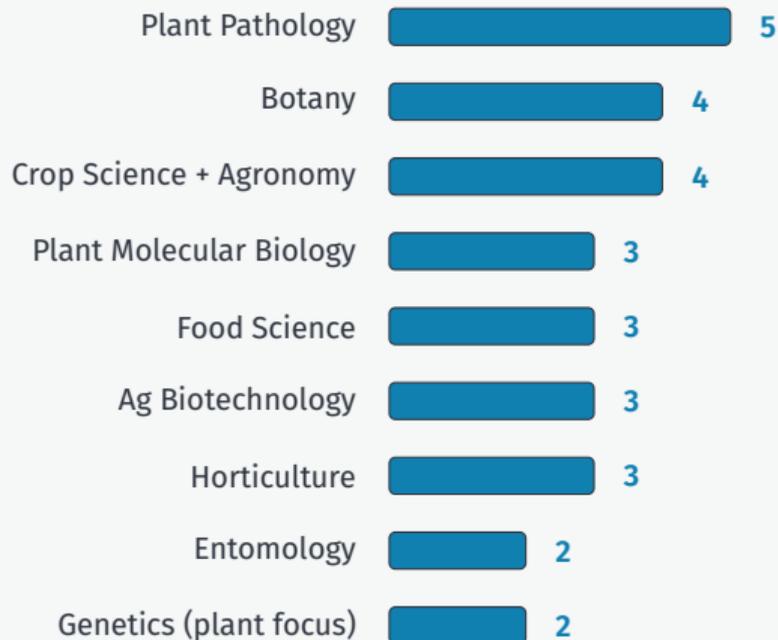
Anderson has a rare triple credential from Texas Tech: **M.S. Crop Science** (magna cum laude), **B.S. Entomology** (magna cum laude), and a **J.D.**—all from the same university. The crop science and entomology combination is directly relevant to Solanaceae IP, where pest resistance traits and crop protection technologies are frequent subjects of patent disputes.

At Dickinson Wright in Austin, he serves as outside general counsel for technology and innovation-driven enterprises, handling complex IP licensing, technology transfer, collaborations, and M&A due diligence. He has been **quoted in the Wall Street Journal on CRISPR gene-editing technology** and in industry publications on cannabis industry–university partnerships—demonstrating public visibility on the exact agricultural biotech issues that drive plant IP disputes. He is admitted in Texas and before the USPTO.

Best for: CRISPR and gene-editing IP strategy, university technology transfer for agricultural innovations, or ag-biotech licensing and transactional work.

Pipeline Analytics

Candidates by Scientific Background



Degree Level Distribution



Data Freshness — Verified March 2026

Candidate	Current Firm	Recent Changes
Alison J. Baldwin	Baldwin IP PLLC	Founded own firm (prev. Faegre Drinker)
Tate L. Tischner	Troutman Pepper Locke	
Jeffrey A. Masson	Thompson Coburn LLP	
Jessica Greenwald	Baker McKenzie	
Janet E. Reed	Potter Anderson	
Ann Slade	Troutman Pepper Locke	
Ann Bernert	Schwabe Williamson	
Thomas Hiesberger	Dentons US LLP	
Morgan Xu	Foley Hoag LLP	Promoted to Partner (Jan. 2026)
K. Lance Anderson	Dickinson Wright PLLC	

Contact Directory

Top 10 — Contact Information

Name	Firm	Email	Phone
Alison J. Baldwin	Baldwin IP PLLC		
Tate L. Tischner	Troutman Pepper		
Jeffrey A. Masson	Thompson Coburn		
Jessica Greenwald	Baker McKenzie		
Janet E. Reed	Potter Anderson		
Ann Slade	Troutman Pepper		
Ann Bernert	Schwabe Williamson		
Thomas Hiesberger	Dentons		
Morgan Xu	Foley Hoag		
K. Lance Anderson	Dickinson Wright		

Thank You

Questions & Next Steps

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