

SILICON VALLEY BUSINESS JOURNAL

Judith Hasko

Partner and global Chair of Latham's Life Sciences Licensing Group | Latham & Watkins LLP

LESLIE GRIFFY
Contributor

Originally from Connecticut, Judith Hasko had dreams of becoming either a veterinarian or a biomedical engineer.

While she ended up a lawyer, she has found ways to integrate these early passions into her life. An avid animal lover, she rides horses and has adopted two rescue dogs and numerous rescue birds.

In her legal career, she is using her degree in biopsychology and masters in neurophysiology and ethology in addition to her law degree when she counsels clients. Her work focuses on helping life sciences companies secure funding and resources for the development and commercialization of life-saving drug therapies and medical device innovations.

As a corporate partner at Latham & Watkins and global chair of the firm's Life Sciences Licensing Group, she advised Redwood City-based OncoMed Pharmaceuticals in their deal with Celgene to develop and commercialize up to six anti-cancer stem cell product candidates from OncoMed's biologics pipeline, as well as small molecule anti-cancer therapeutics. The intricate agreement is likely the largest early clinical deal in biotech history.

Residence: Portola Valley

Education: B.A., biopsychology, Vassar College; J.D., University of Wisconsin Law School; master's of philosophy, neurophysiology and ethology, University of Sussex

Where were you born? Waterbury, Connecticut

How long have you been in this line of work? More than 20 years

Job description: I am a member of a select group of lawyers adept at negotiating, structuring and executing strategic alliances and other technology- and intellectual property-based transactions, helping life sciences companies secure crucial funding and resources for the development and commercialization of life-saving drug therapies and medical device innovations. I provide critical counseling to life sciences companies and have recently advised industry leaders on several landmark, award-winning deals that have a total potential value of nearly \$8 billion.

Company description: Latham & Watkins is a global



law firm with more than 2,200 lawyers in its offices located in Asia, Europe, the Middle East and the United States. The firm has internationally recognized practices in a wide spectrum of transactional, litigation, corporate and regulatory areas.

Employees: More than 4,000 employees.

Career path: I have learned from all of my jobs, but my experience working in the research department at Genentech was critical to my current position. It prepared me to pursue a career that allows me to combine business, science and legal skills.

Current civic/community involvement: I've co-authored several scientific publications in the areas of sensory and cardiovascular biology, and have written or commented for legal publications. I am also a lecturer and speaker on life sciences commercial transactions at industry conferences and seminars, as well as at academic institutions, including the University of California at Berkeley and Stanford University. I have been a volunteer member of several committees and commissions in my town, including the trails committee, ad hoc committees addressing affordable housing and updates to the general plan, and our planning commission, serving as its Chair for 2016.

What was your first job? An operator in a bank

Growing up, you wanted to be: A veterinarian or a biomedical engineer

The best advice you've ever received: My father instilled in me a strong work ethic and sense of responsibility for addressing issues and solving problems, on a personal, business, family and community basis. These attributes help me navigate challenges on a daily basis.

Your best advice for others: Seek out opportunities that demonstrate your abilities, and own the project, or portion of the project, for which you are responsible. Keep your sense of humor and be a good teammate.

Something about you that would surprise others: I support animal adoption and wildlife protection efforts, and have adopted two rescue dogs and many rescue birds.

You are a woman who has assumed a top leadership role. What needs to happen to get more women in corporate leadership roles? Women need opportunities to demonstrate their capabilities and to become comfortable pushing themselves beyond their comfort zones, with organizational, family and community support and encouragement.

What motivates you to get out of bed in the morning? I learn something new every day, and have the opportunity to meet some of the brightest and most motivated entrepreneurs and their investors on a daily basis.

Your favorite gadget: A new wireless sound system to enjoy my favorite music.

Your guilty pleasure: Long hikes and runs along local trails and riding horses.

