

Intellectual Property in Academia and Industry

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**Chemistry
Seminar on
*Intellectual Property***

**Monday
February 3 at
4 pm in 126
Schrenk**

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Abstract: Either through a “Eureka!” moment or a rigorous design of experiment, you’ve made a groundbreaking discovery. What happens next? Who gets credit for it? Who should own it? Who gets to decide? Why do I have to put all of this in my lab notebook?

For scientists, intellectual property plays an important role in both academia and industry. Patent rights are important in protecting, advancing, and monetizing technology, but there are often competing interests at play. Come learn the basics of US and international patent law, including what is patentable, whose name is on the patent (inventorship), and who has the rights under the patent (ownership). The relationship between inventorship and ownership is often related to how the discovery is funded, so an understanding of industry-university collaboration is important, as well as the implications of government funding. The need to keep technology secret is often at odds with the pressure to publish, so one needs to understand what could potentially bar someone from getting a patent. A little patent knowledge can go a long way in distinguishing yourself as a researcher, so come and learn just enough to be dangerous.

About the speaker: As a farm kid with an interest in homemade fireworks, Becky had an early love of science. In college, she decided to continue in those pursuits, obtaining her Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from the University of Missouri – Rolla (Chemistry, 2003). After graduation, she began working as a research associate in Brewer Science’s New Business Group. After a couple of years, she tired of wearing plastic suits, and decided to embrace her argumentative side by attending law school. With a plan in mind to practice patent law, Becky graduated from the University of Missouri School of Law. She rejoined Brewer Science a couple of years later, this time handling the company’s intellectual property. Since then, her responsibilities have grown, including leading a small team and handling topics she never planned on needing to remember after law school, such as contracts, international business, and even human resources. The things she enjoys most are lifting heavy things, traveling, annoying her husband and cats, and stumbling upon ways that she can use her unique combination of talents to serve.