

Dr. Rita ("Ruta") Sanzgiri ‘06 is an Intellectual Property (IP) attorney with a technology focus on biotech, pharmaceuticals and life sciences. Ruta received her Ph.D. in Genetics and Neuroscience at Iowa State University where she studied intercellular signaling in the mammalian nervous system. She then did her post-doctoral research on memory formation at the Volen Center for Complex Systems at Brandeis University. Ruta then decided to apply her research training and experience to real world solutions by shifting to Patent Law. Ruta greatly enjoyed her years at CU Law and served as the Production Editor of the Journal on Telecommunications and High Technology Law (JTHTL). Out of law school, Ruta started her legal career as an associate at the law firm of Faegre and Benson. She later went to work at the IP specialty law firm Sheridan Ross, where she became a Shareholder and advised a wide variety of life sciences clients ranging from innovative start-ups to large multinational companies, as well as research institutes and universities on a wide variety of technologies including therapeutics, diagnostics, medical devices, biofuels and nutritionals. Ruta then moved in-house and was Associate Vice President and Assistant General Patent Counsel at Eli Lilly and Co. in their Diabetes and Obesity group, where she was the responsible attorney for several high-profile assets including GLP1 weight loss drugs. In this role, she worked closely with Lilly’s scientific and business teams to design worldwide patent strategies, reviewed publication plans and external communications, advised on licensing and collaboration agreements and assisted in developing companywide best practices and processes. Ruta now leverages her legal expertise and scientific experience to work as an independent consultant and advisor to life sciences companies. In 2020-21 Ruta was honored to serve as the Chair of Colorado Bar Association’s IP Section and continues to serve on its Executive Council. Ruta is a member of the Colorado Bioscience Association’s Board of Directors Executive Committee and was presented the 2023 Volunteer of the Year award for her contributions to the CBSA and Colorado’s life sciences community. Ruta lives in Boulder with her family. In her free time, she enjoys hiking, traveling and mentoring young talent.