IP Checklist for Drug Discovery Startups

SECERNA

1) Have you identified your core innovations?

- [ ] Have you clearly defined your novel compounds, methods, or platforms?
- [ ] Have you assessed what differentiates your innovation from existing solutions?
- [ ] Have you documented experimental data supporting your innovation?

2) Is your IP strategy aligned with your business goals?

- [ ] Do you have an IP strategy that supports your commercial plans?
- [ ] Have you considered WHAT, WHEN, WHERE and HOW in your IP filing strategy?
- [ ] Have you considered trade secrets for protecting technical know-how?

3) Have you conducted a Freedom to Operate (FTO) analysis?

- [ ] Have you reviewed existing IP in your target markets?
- [ ] Have you identified potential infringement risks?
- [ ] Have you developed a plan to design around or license third-party IP?

4) Are your IP rights properly assigned to your company?

- [ ] Do you have signed IP assignments in place?
- [ ] Are you clear on IP ownership in collaborations or academic partnerships?
- [ ] Have you secured rights to use any third-party tools or data?

5) Are you managing IP-related risks?

- [ ] Have you implemented confidentiality agreements (NDAs)?
- [ ] Are you monitoring competitor filings?
- [ ] Do you have a plan for IP enforcement or dispute resolution?

6) Are you ready to talk IP at ELRIG?

- [ ] Have you prepared a non-confidential summary of your innovation?
- [ ] Do you know what you can and cannot disclose publicly?
- [ ] Do you have a plan for follow-up with potential partners or investors?

Next steps

Completed your IP Checklist?

Contact our team of attorneys and book a free 1-hour consultation with us to discuss how we can support your IP goals.

We are able to help you:

- Identify your core innovations
- Align your IP strategy with your business goals
- Understand IP owner rights
- Give you guidance on Freedom to Operate (FTO)
- Identify IP-related risks and how to manage them

Email us at **docketing@secerna.com** and include **ELRIG's Drug Discovery 2026** in the subject line of the email.