IceMiller

# Dann Bruno


Partner

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Dann is an experienced lawyer who works on both the company-side and the investor-side, often representing entrepreneurs, emerging companies, and private equity and venture capital entities, advising clients from formation through funding to exit. As partner in Ice Miller's Business Group, he focuses his practice on venture capital and private equity transactions, mergers and acquisitions, corporate governance, intellectual property, and licensing.

Dann primarily works with investors, high-growth companies, and technology transfer offices on M&A, financings, intellectual property licensing, and general business matters. He is also a registered patent attorney with the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

## Education

- The Ohio State University (B.S., *with honors*)
  - Biology
- University of Akron School of Law (J.D.)

## Admissions

- Massachusetts
- Ohio
- United States Patent and Trademark Office

## Professional Affiliations

- American Intellectual Property Association
- Association of University Technology Managers
- Columbus Intellectual Property Law Association
- Licensing Executive Society

## Services & Industries

- Business
- Mergers & Acquisitions
- Private Equity

## Awards & Honors

- *The Best Lawyers in America*®: Ones to Watch®, Corporate Law and Intellectual Property Law, 2021-2023, 2026

## Community Involvement

- Tenant Advocacy Program

# Success Stories

**Ice Miller Assists Cellens in Raising $6.5 Million to Advance Physics-Based Test for Bladder Cancer**
Ice Miller represented Cellens—a Boston-based cancer diagnostics company pioneering a new mechanobiology and AI-driven platform, BioFeel™, for non-invasive cancer detection, in raising a $6.5 million Series Seed round.

Cellens' technology is a departure from the norm in cancer diagnostics, in which scientists largely rely on molecular markers inside the cell. The company uses atomic force microscopy, which "feels" the stiffness of cells to identify a cancer's biophysical fingerprint rather than its molecular signature. The technology is combined with machine learning algorithms trained on millions of cell interactions.

The financing follows compelling early clinical data generated with leading urologists at Harvard's Brigham and Women's Hospital, showing that the company's urine-based bladder cancer test detected recurrence with strong diagnostic performance, detecting all recurrence cases and achieving an Area under the Curve (AUC) of 88% in an initial prospective clinical study.

The round was led by SOSV, with participation from the Labcorp Venture Fund, KOLON, Blackwood Healthcare Breakthroughs, Tufts University, American Cancer Society BrightEdge, Cancer Fund, TiE Boston Angels, and other strategic investors.

Bladder cancer is among the most common and most expensive cancers to monitor, with an estimated 83,190 new United States cases in 2024 and 800,000 living with the disease nationwide. Because recurrence is frequent, patients undergo repeated invasive cystoscopies, often several times per year. Yet, the majority of these procedures yield negative results, creating significant patient burden and high health care costs. According to SEER-Medicare projections, bladder cancer is expected to reach $11.6 billion in annual United States costs by 2030.

Ice Miller Business partners Dann Bruno and Mai Zymaris represented Cellens in the financing, with assistance from associates Michael Bennett and Tim Pierret. Our Life Sciences practice group has extensive experience working with start-ups to help them with seed-stage funding, intellectual property procurement and counseling, and licensing and strategic alliances.

Click here to read the article.

**Ice Miller Assists Two Gene Therapy Companies in Securing Seed Financing**
Ice Miller represented two cutting-edge gene therapy companies—Nionyx Bio and Helex—in securing a combined $7.5 million in seed financing to advance their mission-critical research and development efforts in precision therapeutics for kidney diseases.

Nionyx Bio recently closed a lead-round of approximately $4 million in seed financing, led by 2048 Ventures and joined by Empire State Development (NY Ventures), White Mug Healthcare, AIN Ventures, and Pathway Bioventures. The funding will support the expansion of Nionyx's proprietary AAV-based delivery platform (Kidney Atlas), the advancement of its gene cassette technologies, and the growth of its team and infrastructure to bring targeted kidney gene therapies closer to clinical development.

Helex secured $3.5 million in its most recent seed round, led by pi Ventures, with participation from Bluehill Capital, SOSV, and a global syndicate of investors. With this round, Helex has raised over $6 million in total funding to date. Helex is developing a new class of non-viral, kidney-targeted therapies using its proprietary LNP delivery and AI-based drug-design platforms to address genetic kidney diseases such as autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease (ADPKD).

Ice Miller Business partners TaeSoo Sean Kim and Dann Bruno represented Helex and Nionyx in the financing, with assistance from associate Zenas Shi. Our Life Sciences practice group has extensive experience working with start-ups to help them with seed-stage funding, intellectual property procurement and counseling, and licensing and strategic alliances.

**Ice Miller Counsels MEDiC Life Sciences on Acquisition of Clinical-Stage Oncology Program**
Ice Miller represented MEDiC Life Sciences, a biotechnology company pioneering next-generation functional genomics in 3D cancer models, in its acquisition of a clinical-stage oncology program. The asset, which has completed Phase Ib trials in more than 70 patients, marks a significant step in MEDiC's strategy to build a robust therapeutic pipeline.

Through its proprietary SLS™ (Synthetic-Lethal-Gene Signature) biomarker platform, MEDiC identified biomarkers that enhance the program's efficacy by more than 100-fold in preclinical cancer models. With these biomarkers being highly prevalent in cancer patients, the company sees both strong therapeutic potential and a compelling market opportunity.

MEDiC plans to advance the program through investigator-sponsored trials, aiming to validate this biomarker-driven strategy in humans. If successful, the initiative would not only deliver a valuable oncology therapy but also demonstrate the broader power of MEDiC's platform approach.

The Ice Miller team advising MEDiC was led by partner TaeSoo Sean Kim, with support from partners Dann Bruno, Daniel Corsaro, Louis DeLucia, and Weihong Hsing from firm's Business, Bankruptcy & Restructuring, Intellectual Property, and Tax practice groups. Paralegal Michal Shomron also provided valuable support. Ice Miller has served as a trusted advisor to MEDiC across multiple stages of its growth, providing legal and strategic counsel in support of its mission to accelerate the development of next-generation cancer treatments.

**Ice Miller Represents Voronoi in Sale of RIPK1 Program to Anvia Therapeutics**
Ice Miller represented Voronoi, a South Korean public company, in its asset sales agreement with Anvia Therapeutics, a United States-based biotech company funded by Deerfield, one of the leading venture capital investors in the United States life sciences sector.

The transaction grants Anvia rights to VRN04, Voronoi's oral RIPK1-targeting drug candidate under development for autoimmune, chronic inflammatory, and neurodegenerative diseases. The agreement was executed following Anvia's exercise of an option granted to the company in 2024.

Under the terms of the deal, Voronoi will receive up to $14.5 million in upfront and milestone payments, payable in both cash and equity, along with royalty on net sales upon commercialization. As part of the upfront consideration, Voronoi received three million shares of Anvia common stock valued at $3 million. Additional milestone events will trigger further cash payments and share issuances. This transaction highlights the increasing recognition of RIPK1 as a therapeutic target and underscores Voronoi's continued innovation in autoimmune and neuroinflammation therapies.

Ice Miller Business partner TaeSoo Sean Kim led the negotiations, with partners Dann Bruno and Daniel Corsaro assisting on the equity and tax components, respectively.

**Ice Miller Helps Colossal Biosciences Secure $200 Million in Series C Financing to "De-Extinct" the Woolly Mammoth, Thylacine, and Dodo**
Ice Miller served as co-counsel in the representation of client Colossal Biosciences, a leading-edge genetic engineering company, in the announcement of its $200 million Series C financing by TWG Global, a diversified holding company with operating businesses and investments in technology/AI, financial services, private lending and sports and media. Colossal will leverage this latest infusion of capital to continue to advance its genetic engineering technologies while pioneering new revolutionary software, wetware and hardware solutions, which have applications beyond de-extinction including species preservation and human healthcare. Since launching in September 2021, Colossal has raised $435M in total funding. This latest round of capital places the company at a $10.2 billion valuation. The Ice Miller team was led by TaeSoo Sean Kim, with

support from Dann Bruno, Josh Borean, and Simone Park. Intellectual Property counsel was provided by Fabian Koenigbauer and Andrew Baraniak.

To learn more about this novel and impactful endeavor, please review Colossal's press release, which goes into great detail regarding its strides in the scientific breakthroughs toward “de-extinction,” or bringing back extinct species like the woolly mammoth, thylacine and the dodo.

As noted in Colossal's release, “This funding will grow our team, support new technology development, expand our de-extinction species list, while continuing to allow us to carry forth our mission to make extinction a thing of the past.”

**Ice Miller Represents Forge Biologics in $620M Acquisition by Ajinomoto**
Forge Biologics Holdings, LLC, a Columbus, Ohio-based premier gene therapy contract development & manufacturing organization, has been acquired by the Ajinomoto Group, a Japanese multinational food and biotechnology public company, in an all-cash $620M deal.

The Ice Miller deal team was led by Edward Braum and Dann Bruno, with additional corporate support from Erik Olson, Kevin Burns, Ben Goodman, Chris Michael, Chelsea Abramowitz, Brigid Sharek, Huidi Shu, and Lisa Samblanet. Kathleen Scheidt, Dan Corsaro, Nick Casto, Sean Kim, Holly Banta, Cathy Strauss, Anthony Aaron, Grace Dahm, Nick Reuhs, and Brian Harvey provided specialist support.

Ice Miller has represented Forge since its inception in 2020 through its various rounds of venture capital financing, including its $40M Series A financing in 2020, $120M Series B financing in 2021, and $90M Series C financing in 2022. Ice Miller Business Group partners Edward Braum and Sean Kim have represented Forge through its growth, with Ed overseeing the structuring and financing of the company, and Sean facilitating licensing and day-to-day commercial transactions.

This representation further highlights Ice Miller's rapidly growing life sciences practice, with the acquisition placing Forge in a position for long-term growth. The transaction also supports Ajinomoto's desire to extend its development and manufacturing of gene therapies worldwide.