



Erik D. Olson, Ph.D.

Associate

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Erik Olson, Ph.D., is an associate in the Business Group where he focuses his practice on a variety of corporate matters, including mergers and acquisitions, venture capital investment, licensing and technology transfer, and advising clients on intellectual property matters. Previously, he was a summer associate at the Firm.

Erik earned his juris doctor from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, where he graduated as the salutatorian of his class and was a recipient of the Michael E. Moritz Merit Scholarship. During law school, he served as chief articles editor for the *Ohio State Technology Law Journal* and worked as a licensing intern for the school's Technology Commercialization Office. Erik was also an active member of Intellectual Property Law Society, serving as secretary of the organization.

Prior to law school, Erik earned a Ph.D. in biochemistry from The Ohio State University, studying under Professor Karin Musier-Forsyth and publishing extensively in the field of retroviral RNA biology. The terminal part of his Ph.D. research was funded directly by the National Institutes of Health through the prestigious Ruth L. Kirschstein Predoctoral Fellowship program. Erik's experience with pre-clinical research, and intellectual property protection and transfer allow him to represent technology-driven businesses across their life cycle, particularly those in the biotechnology and life sciences sectors.

Erik earned a Bachelor of Arts, *magna cum laude*, in chemistry from Carleton College. He is also proficient in oral and written Spanish.

Erik is admitted to practice law in Ohio.

Education

- Carleton College (B.A., *magna cum laude*, 2012)
 - Chemistry
- The Ohio State University (Ph.D., 2018)
 - Biochemistry
- The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law (J.D., *summa cum laude*, 2021)

Services & Industries

- Business
- Health Care
- Licensing
- Life Sciences & Biotechnology
- Mergers & Acquisitions
- Portfolio Company Operations
- Private Equity
- Health Care

Admissions

- Ohio

Awards & Honors

- Michael E. Moritz Merit Scholarship, The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law
- Dean's Scholar Award, The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law
- CALI Award, Legal Analysis and Writing I, Legal Analysis and Writing II, Contracts II, Evidence, Advanced Constitutional Law, Taxation of Business Entities, Entrepreneurial Business Law Clinic
- Best Written Brief, 1L Moot Court Competition
- Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award Predoctoral Fellowship, National Institutes of Health
- Outstanding Oral Presentation Award and Selection for Plenary Talk, 11th Annual OSU Life Sciences Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs Symposium
- RNA Society Oral Presentation Award, 10th International Retroviral Nucleocapsid Protein and Assembly Symposium

Languages

- Spanish

Success Stories

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.

Ice Miller Represents Clarus R&D Solutions in Acquisition by TriNet USAq

Ice Miller LLP represented Clarus R&D Solutions, LLC in its sale to TriNet USA, Inc. (a subsidiary of TriNet Group, Inc.) Clarus R&D Solutions, LLC is a company founded in 2016 in Columbus, Ohio that has built a software platform that facilitates the acquisition of R&D and other tax credits for its business customers.

The Ice Miller deal team was led by partner [Leslie Johnson](#) and associates [Erik Olson](#) and [Kole Brinegar](#) with support from partners Gary Blachman, [Sid Bose](#), [Dustin DuBois](#) and [Brian Schultz](#) and associates Donald Burton, Casey Wright and [Abigail Barr](#) and paralegal [Lisa Samblanet](#).

Published In

- “HIV-1 Gag Protein with or Without p6 Specifically Dimerizes on the Viral RNA Packaging Signal,” *J Biol Chem*, 2020
- “Integrative Structural Biology Studies of HIV-1 Reverse Transcriptase Binding to a High Affinity DNA Aptamer,” *Current Res Struct Biol.* 2, 116-29, 2020
- “Solution Conformation of Bovine Leukemia Virus Gag Suggests an Elongated Structure,” *J Mol Biol.* 431(6), 1203-16, 2019
- “Retroviral Gag Protein - RNA Interactions: Implications for Specific Genomic RNA Packaging and Virion Assembly,” *Sem Cell Dev Biol.* 86, 129-139, 2019
- “Retroviral 5'-Untranslated Region RNA Structure and Interactions with Viral and Host Proteins,” 2018
- “Conservation of tRNA Mimicry in the 5'-Untranslated Region of Distinct HIV-1 Subtypes,” *RNA.* **23**(12), 1850-9, 2017
- “Inhibition of HIV-1 Gag-Membrane Interactions by Specific RNAs,” *RNA.* **23**(3), 395-405, 2017
- “Analysis of RNA Structure Using Small-Angle X-Ray Scattering,” *Methods.* **113**, 46-55, 2017
- “Mechanistic Differences Between HIV-1 and SIV Nucleocapsid Proteins and Cross-Species HIV-1 Genomic RNA Recognition,” *Retrovirology.* **13**, 89, 2016
- “Functional Equivalence of Retroviral MA Domains in Facilitating Psi RNA Binding Specificity,” *Gag. Viruses.* **8**(9), 256, 2016
- “Identification of Distinct Biological Functions for Four 3'-5' RNA Polymerases,” *Nucleic Acids Res.* **44**(17), 8395-406, 2016
- “New Structure Sheds Light on Selective HIV-1 Genomic RNA Packaging,” *Viruses* **7**(8), 4826-35, 2015
- “Progress and Outlook in Structural Biology of Large Viral RNAs,” *Virus Res.* **193**, 24-38, 2014
- “Small-Angle X-Ray Scattering-Derived Structure of HIV-1 5'UTR Reveals 3D tRNA Mimicry,” *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA.* **111**(9), 3395-400, 2014