



Zenas Shi

Associate

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Zenas Shi is an associate in Ice Miller's Business Group.

He received his juris doctor from Indiana University Maurer School of Law. While in law school, he was president of the Asian Pacific American Law Student Association (APALSA) and a research assistant for Professor Jayanth Krishnan. He was also the Preemption Editor for the *Indiana Law Journal*.

Zenas has served Ice Miller in several capacities, including being a conflicts check specialist and most recently, a summer associate. In his free time, Zenas and his wife enjoy traveling, hiking, riding motorcycles, and walking their two dogs to the park. He is also a Formula 1 enthusiast and loves to cook and bake.

Education

- Northwestern University (B.A., 2015)
 - Major – Psychology
 - Minor – Chemistry
- Sungkyunkwan University Graduate School of Business (M.B.A, 2023)
- Indiana University Maurer School of Law (J.D., *magna cum laude*, 2024)

Admissions

- Indiana

Services & Industries

- Business
- Vietnam Practice

Success Stories

Ice Miller Represents Vietnamese Company in Expanding Sustainable Packaging Operations in the United States

Ice Miller serves as legal counsel to Plascene Inc., a subsidiary of Vietnam's DUYTAN Group, providing strategic legal guidance as the company strengthens its position in the United States plastics market and advances its commitment to sustainable packaging.

Founded in 2011, Plascene has grown from a single manufacturing facility in Oxnard, California, into a recognized leader in food-grade PET and recycled PET (rPET) bottles and jars. The company now operates 15 production lines with an annual capacity exceeding 270 million bottles, serving global clients across the food, beverage, and nutraceutical sectors. Plascene has built long-standing partnerships with brands whose products are distributed in leading retailers, including Costco, Walmart, Trader Joe's, Target, and Sam's Club. As part of DUYTAN Group—Vietnam's largest plastic manufacturer with more than 38 years of industry experience—Plascene benefits from its parent company's global network and shared dedication to sustainability.

The deal team was led by partner [Mai Zymaris](#) and supported by partners [Justin Swindells](#), [Wonnie Lee](#), [Freedom Smith](#), [Olga Voinarevich](#), Ken Robinson, [Terri Czajka](#), [John Cannizzaro](#), and [Brad Jones](#). Associates [Grace Dahm](#), [Amy Flowers](#), [Zenas Shi](#), and law clerk Kelly Xia provided additional assistance. Ice Miller's [Vietnam Practice](#) interdisciplinary team has counseled Plascene on intellectual property protection, international trade compliance, commercial and IP-related contracts, tax credits, employee benefits, and cross-border transactions. The firm's guidance has enabled Plascene to navigate complex regulatory frameworks while strengthening its competitive position in the global packaging market.

"Ice Miller stands out by combining that same 'Big Law' caliber expertise with the personalized, flexible service of a boutique firm—all at reasonable rates. No issue is too small; the team always prioritizes practical solutions over billable hours or high-profile wins," said Plascene General Counsel Minh Khoa D. Tran. "What impressed me most is their remarkable responsiveness and flexibility. Despite Plascene not being their largest client, they treat us as a top priority, seeing our future potential and supporting our U.S. expansion every step of the way."

Plascene's continued expansion demonstrates how thoughtful legal counsel can support mission-driven manufacturers as they scale across jurisdictions and advance industry standards for sustainable production.

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.