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New law firm to specialize in biotechnology

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Three patent attorneys have formed an unusual biotechnology law firm here called Biotactica LLC that provides services to the life-sciences industry and aims to help clients move innovations from discovery to market.

The three — Kevin Buckley, Tara Nealey and Saul Zackson — all have science backgrounds and all previously worked in the St. Louis office of Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP. They have represented a broad range of clients, including individual scientists, startups, universities, private research institutes and Fortune 500 companies.

"We're the first specializing in the life sciences in the area," said Buckley, president of the firm. He said he also believes Biotactica, which is based in Creve Coeur, is among the few law firms in the country dedicated entirely to the biotech field.

Buckley was a biochemist before becoming a lawyer. Nealey has a doctorate in physiology, and Zackson has a doctorate in molecular biology.

The firm is offering such services as intellectual-property protection, licensing, regulation, funding and marketing. It also will connect clients with research organizations, venture capitalists, strategic consultants and other commercial entities.

"When you integrate these practices, you're enabling clients to get things to market more quickly than in a piecemeal way," Buckley said.

He said Biotactica also will be collaborating with other law firms throughout the world. He recently returned from India, where he sought partners for strategic alliances.

The firm already has clients, but Buckley said he could not disclose their names.

"We have several patent applications that we are working on now for clients that are national in scope," he said.

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