



## William Wei Zhang PhD

### Associate

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William Wei Zhang focuses his practice on patent prosecution in the areas of pharmaceuticals and polymer chemistry.

Prior to joining Wolf Greenfield, William worked as a medicinal chemist at Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research. He contributed to developing structure-activity relationships and improving physicochemical and pharmacokinetic properties of lead compounds in multiple therapeutic areas. He is a co-inventor on two US patents directed to the treatment of diabetes and hepatitis C.

William obtained his PhD in Organic Chemistry from Columbia University under the direction of Professor Colin Nuckolls. His graduate work focused on the preparation and characterization of foldamers and organic semiconductors. A foldamer is an artificial, chain molecule that adopts, or “folds into,” a secondary structure stabilized by noncovalent interactions. Foldamers have potential applications in the development of new drugs and functional materials. William synthesized novel oligomeric benzenetricarboxamides, which fold into defined secondary structures in solution under the synergy of hydrogen bonds and  $\pi$ - $\pi$  interaction. He also prepared a stable and highly soluble tetraalkoxypentacene and solution-cast it to form single-wire, organic field-effect transistors.

### Education

Nanjing University, BS,  
Polymer Chemistry &  
Engineering, *summa cum  
laude*

Nanjing University, MS,  
Polymer Chemistry,  
*summa cum laude*

Columbia University,  
PhD, Organic Chemistry

Suffolk University Law  
School, JD

### Practice Groups

Chemical & Materials  
Technologies

### Pharmaceutical

### Experience

- Conducted patentability, freedom-to-operate, validity, and infringement analyses, including searching chemical structures and reviewing large volumes of documents.
- Worked with inventors and in-house counsel to review invention disclosures in light of the prior art and possible future developments for determining appropriate patent protection that matches the client’s business goals.

- Prepared and prosecuted patent applications directed to small molecules, drug-delivery compositions, nanoparticles, catalysts, polymorphs, polymers, microarrays, synthetic methods, and diagnostic methods.
- Assisted due diligence involving inter partes reviews.

## Activities

- Boston Patent Law Association

## Recognition

- Faculty Fellowship, Columbia University
- Graduate Student Excellence Award, Jiangsu Province Ministry of Education, China
- Named to the 2017 list of Massachusetts Rising Stars by Super Lawyers

## Interests

William enjoys photography, hiking, and gardening. Some pictures he took have been selected for inclusion in a city guide and a charitable website. He was also a top player of the online video game Diablo.