



Sherry M. Knowles, Esq. is Senior Vice President and Chief Patent Counsel of GlaxoSmithKline, where she serves as the worldwide head of patents for both litigation and transactional matters. Ms. Knowles joined GSK in September 2006. Prior to that, she was a partner in and founder of the Biotechnology and Pharmaceutical Intellectual Property Practice at King & Spalding LLP, where she represented companies, foundations and universities in connection with patent prosecution, litigation, contracts, licensing, financing and other corporate intellectual property issues relating to pharmaceutical, biotechnology and chemical inventions. Ms. Knowles received her B.S., cum laude, with distinction in chemistry from Duke University and received her M.S. cum laude in organic chemistry from Clemson University. Prior to attending law school, she spent several years at SmithKline Beecham (now GlaxoSmithKline) as a pharmaceutical synthetic chemist. She received her J.D., magna cum laude, from the University of Georgia where she was a Benjamin Phillips Scholar and was elected to the Order of the Coif.

Ms. Knowles played a key role in the case of *Tafas and GlaxoSmithKline v. Dudas*, 541 F. Supp. 2d 805 (E.D. Va. 2008). After studying the Final Rules issued by the PTO in August 2007, Ms. Knowles recommended to GSK that it bring suit to challenge the Rules as not authorized by and inconsistent with law. Dr. Tafas filed a lawsuit against the Rules as a sole inventor in August 22, 2007. On October 9, 2007, GSK became the first and only company in the U.S. to file a lawsuit to challenge the rules. GSK was also the only party to seek a preliminary injunction to stay the Rules, which was granted by Judge Cacheris of the U.S. Federal District Court for the District Columbia on October 31, 2007. The grant of the preliminary injunction was a key event, which delayed implementation of the Rules until final disposition of the matter. Thereafter, GSK, along with Dr. Tafas, sought and were granted summary judgment and a permanent injunction. During the course of litigation, 20 amicus briefs were filed by parties in support of Dr. Tafas and GSK, including from the AIPLA, PhRMA, BIO, IPO, Washington Legal Foundation and CropLife America.

The litigation concluded in October 2009, when GSK joined a motion by the PTO to dismiss all litigation and the PTO agreed to withdraw all challenged rules.