

US Legal Counsel

Great opportunity to establish the US Legal support function of a fast-growing biotech company

Ascendis Pharma is an entrepreneurial and fast-growing company where skilled, agile and highly resourceful professionals can truly make their mark. Ascendis offers a dynamic place for employees to grow and develop their skills, while influencing the direction of this global company.

We are currently in the process of establishing our legal support function in the US both in relation to providing day-to-day support to contracting processes and to support our preparations for commercial launch of our pipeline products. To help drive this agenda, we are now hiring a Legal Counsel, US with pharmaceutical/biotech industry experience.

The US Legal Counsel is responsible for the provision of high-quality daily support of all functions represented in our US office, including Product Development, Finance, HR, Commercial, Management etc. This includes drafting, negotiating and supporting a variety of agreements in support of our development and commercial launch efforts in addition to being a sparring partner in the on-going collaboration with our numerous external vendors within all areas. The US Legal Counsel will be part of Group Legal which is integrated with Group Compliance, and the US Legal Counsel will be working very closely with our US Compliance Team.

The role will support business functions on day-to-day issues as well as participating in strategic for on an ad-hoc basis. As a key member of the US Legal Team, the individual must have the appropriate level of business and compliance experience, as well as sound judgment to advise the business on complex legal issues and processes. The individual must have prior experience with establishing relations to US payers and will be expected to support our US Commercial organization in the efforts to commercialize our pipeline products in the US. The Legal Counsel must be able to work independently, successfully and collaboratively in a matrix environment. The position will sit in the Ascendis US office, Palo Alto, California and report to the Head of Group Legal in the Ascendis Headquarters, Copenhagen, Denmark and consequently the US Legal Counsel must be willing and able to convey updated reports to the Head of Group Legal and must be ready to seek guidance as applicable to ensure consistency between sites. The position requires periodic international travel.

Principal Responsibilities

- Develop and support contracting policies and procedures to support our US operation
- Be a trusted advisor to the organization as well as management and be an advocate for a transparent and compliant contracting culture
- Support the business in FMV assessments
- Support relevant data privacy procedures in collaboration with Group Compliance
- Represent the Legal function on committees as assigned

- Create and deliver legal compliance education (Training and Awareness) for US employees and managers, including both introductory and ongoing training.
- On an ongoing basis, support the communication of emerging trends, new policies, procedures, and expectations to the US organization.
- Assist the US organization in identifying and prioritizing legal risks and opportunities on an ongoing basis.
- Assist the Commercial organization in the initial establishment a contractual framework with payers.
- Support business critical initiatives and projects across the organization.
- Other projects or activities as required.
- Job duties may be assigned and/or modified at any time as business needs require.

Qualifications

- 5-7 years' experience in the healthcare industry, including at least 4 years working in an in-house legal function.
- Solid knowledge of the legal framework around commercializing pharmaceutical products in the US including payer contracting
- Solid knowledge of pharmaceutical/biotech industry laws, guidelines, and codes.
- Strong communication, relationship management, analytical skills, and the ability to work in a matrix organization.
- Able to work independently and to prioritize multiple demands.
- Strong project management skills with an ability to work in a collaborative, cross-functional environment.
- Business-focused and process-oriented, strong analytic capability including the ability to identify root causes of issues and corrective actions.
- Willingness to undertake both day-to-day tasks and participate in strategic projects
- Ability to execute both strategically and tactically
- Ability to think and act holistically
- Spoken languages: English fluent

Education

- Doctorate from a nationally recognized law school.
- Member in good standing of the State Bar of California, or have the ability to acquire status of Registered In-House Counsel from the California Bar.

Employment Category

Full-Time Regular

Experience Level

Director

Want to apply? Please send your resume to HumanResources@ascendispharma.com. Please write **“Legal Counsel (U.S.)”** in the subject field.