

## MVP: Davis Polk's David Bauer

By Ken Downey Jr.

*Law360 (October 16, 2023, 1:08 PM EDT)* -- David Bauer of Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP advised Cellular Biomedicine Group on its licensing agreement with Janssen, in order to bring new cancer treatments outside of China, which earned him a spot among Law360's 2023 Life Sciences MVPs.

### ***His biggest accomplishment and greatest challenge over the past year:***

Bauer said his biggest accomplishment and greatest challenge over the last year went hand-in-hand with each other.

"Given the way market conditions have been challenging over the past year, I think my biggest challenge and my biggest accomplishment was really just to be able to work on many transactions for clients in this space and continuing to grow and build my team," Bauer said.

He gave some examples, such as his work on multiple transactions for GlaxoSmithKline, where he advised on an exclusive licensing agreement with Scynexis, and his work with Gilead Sciences Inc. in its acquisition of MiroBio.

"I feel very fortunate that I have a great team of creative and talented counsel and associates who support this work," Bauer said. "I really do feel that one of my responsibilities and challenges is to provide them with opportunities to work on interesting transactions, so they can themselves grow as lawyers and help our clients and develop their own practices."

### ***His proudest moment of the last year:***

Bauer said he is always proudest when his transactions go through with successful execution, but specifically, he was proudest of advising Cellular Biomedicine Group Inc. on a CAR-T collaboration and license agreement with Janssen.

"That's an exciting area, and this transaction is intended to enable Janssen to develop CAR-T therapies in territories outside of China, in the hope of helping oncology patients," Bauer said. "Overall, I think the transaction holds the promise of potentially bringing new oncology therapies to the market for patients in need. And as a result, [I am] just very proud to work with CBMG and be a part of it."



***What motivates him:***

Bauer said he feels like he is always learning and always being presented with new challenges, which he enjoys as it motivates him to help his clients more.

"It really boils down to a combination of the intellectual challenge required by my work and the opportunity to work with so many interesting people," Bauer said. "In my work, I'd say no two days are alike, and no two transactions are alike."

***Why he became an attorney:***

Bauer said he did not take a direct path to becoming a lawyer.

"I actually earned a Ph.D. before becoming a lawyer, and I've always had sort of joint interest in law and science," Bauer said. "I loved working at the intersection between law and science, and focusing on improving human health."

In addition, Bauer said he loves working on transactions that intend to bring medicines to market.

"I find all of this fascinating and very intellectually stimulating to learn about cutting edge medicines that are rapidly evolving the landscape," he said. "Being a life sciences lawyer requires one to really call upon expertise from a variety of legal and technical disciplines."

***His advice for junior attorneys:***

Bauer said his principal advice for junior attorneys is to find a practice area that is rewarding for them and to find mentors who will give them the opportunity to develop their skills.

"High-quality lawyering requires practice and experience," he said. "The time required by our profession can be very taxing, but if you find the practice area that you really enjoy at an intellectual level and great people to work with, you have — in my opinion — the two key ingredients necessary for a rewarding career."

*--As told to Ken Downey Jr.*

*Law360's MVPs of the Year are attorneys who have distinguished themselves from their peers over the past year through high-stakes litigation, record-breaking deals, and complex global matters. A team of Law360 editors selected the 2023 MVP winners after reviewing more than 900 submissions.*