

# How to Identify Owners in the United States

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## **Introduction**

In this chapter, we delve into the topic of ownership, including how to identify ownership of patent rights, the rights of co-owners, determining whether there is an obligation of researchers to assign ownership rights to universities, and how patent rights are typically transferred to the university. How the Bayh-Dole Act may impact ownership rights is also briefly covered. Finally, we arrive at our general conclusions and recommendations.

Though our focus here is on patent rights, technology property rights can be in other forms, for example, kept as a trade secret.<sup>1</sup> Keep in mind that the discussion contained in this chapter is for general educational purposes only. It is the opinion of the authors, and not of the authors' firm or clients. Further, the discussion contained in this chapter does not constitute legal advice and may not apply to specific fact situations. Advice of patent counsel is recommended for questions on specific situations.