A science background and a law degree allow Koh to practice patent litigation and related counseling for Latham & Watkins. Raised in Orange County, she said UC San Diego’s strong program in bioengineering lured her to the area. Once here, she was hooked, earned her master’s degree and stayed on for law school at the University of San Diego. “It was my first time here,” she said of arriving at the school. “The atmosphere, the comfortable, casual vibe were wonderful. I can’t think of a better place to live and practice.”

Koh represents clients in industries that are vital to San Diego’s economy, particularly the pharmaceutical and life sciences sectors, such as the Thermo Fisher Scientific unit Life Technologies Corp. based in Carlsbad. She has litigated for numerous clients on matters pertaining to pharmaceuticals, medical devices, molecular diagnostics and DNA sequencing. Her experience includes trial and appellate work in cases arising under the federal Hatch-Waxman Act. She has been to trial several times in federal court, handling all aspects of trial preparation, including claim construction, expert discovery; the taking and defending of key witness depositions; and presenting and cross-examining fact and expert witnesses in trial. She has assisted clients in obtaining multiple injunctions against competitors, and she has been involved in successful appeals before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, which affirmed favorable district court findings.

“My science background helps explain the technology behind patents to judges and juries. Part of the fun of doing patent litigation is learning new technologies.”

— Jennifer Koh

Latham & Watkins LLP

Title: Partner
Age: 39

said, “Part of the fun of doing patent litigation is learning new technologies.”

She recently represented Par Pharmaceutical Inc. in a patent infringement suit brought by Novartis Pharmaceuticals International Corp. in federal court in Delaware. The patent related to rivastigmine transdermal patch for treating Alzheimer’s disease. After trial, the court found that Koh’s client did not infringe the patent, a ruling affirmed on appeal.

Away from court, Koh is active in pro bono work for Casa Cornelia Law Center, assisting in asylum cases, and for the National Veterans Legal Services Program, helping U.S. military veterans seeking disability benefits at the Board of Corrections of Naval Records. She is the local chair of Latham’s Women Enriching Business committee, addressing the business challenges and opportunities unique to women lawyers and current and prospective women clients.

“I’m pretty passionate about bringing women in the law and in business together to understand our common situations,” she said. “Altogether, life is busy and it’s fun to be part of a global law firm in San Diego.”

— John Roemer