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Buzz

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Sinsheimer firm hires patent expert

Nancy W. Vensko recently joined the San Luis Obispo law firm Sinsheimer Juhnke Lebens & McIvor as an attorney in its intellectual property department.

She has practiced patent law for more than 15 years and is registered to practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Of-

fice, according to an announcement by the law firm.

Vensko — who grew up in San Luis Obispo County and lives in Arroyo Grande with her husband, **George** — earned a bachelor's degree in English at UCSB, received a teaching credential in science and English from San Francisco State University and earned a post-baccalaureate degree in zoology at UC Berkeley.

She earned a master's degree in cancer biology from Stanford University's School of Medicine and was a research assistant at Salk Institute Biotechnology/Industrial Associates Inc. before attending California Western School of Law. Vensko was also a judicial extern for U.S. Appeals Court Judge D.R. Thompson, according to the firm's announcement.

Before joining the Sinsheimer firm, Vensko was managing partner in the San Luis Obispo office of Knobbe Martens Olson & Bear. There, she managed its work with the National Institutes of Health for patent legal services.

She joined that firm after a time as in-house patent counsel for Amylin Pharmaceuticals Inc., where she co-authored "Defense of Aesthetic Functionality in Protecting Trade Dress."

— *Antonio A. Prado*