

# CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

LEADERSHIP SEMINAR SERIES

**JEFF THOMAS**

**Wednesday, September 28, 2016**

Director Intellectual Property Counsel

Caris Life Sciences

## **Chemical Engineering is a Great Background for an Attorney**

**ABSTRACT:** A degree in Chemical Engineering is one of the most diverse degrees you can obtain. Throughout 20+ years' experience in the life sciences, I've been a bench scientist, computer scientist, and now I'm an intellectual property attorney. My degrees in Chemical Engineering have facilitated these transitions every step of the way. This talk will provide an overview of my diverse – and largely unplanned – career path, how to become an attorney and what you can do with a law degree, an overview of patent law in particular, and general tips on managing your own career.

**BIOGRAPHY:** Jeff Thomas is an intellectual property attorney with close to 25 years' experience in biotechnology. After receiving a BS in chemical engineering from NC State University, Jeff moved to Seattle to be near real mountains. While there, he also attended the UW and received a Masters in genetics and PhD in chemical engineering. After post-doctoral studies, Jeff worked as a bioinformatics scientist in the biotech industry for over five years. He then returned to school and received a law degree from UC Berkeley. Jeff initially worked as a patent attorney at a large Silicon Valley law firm and is currently Sr. Director and Intellectual Property Counsel at Caris Life Sciences, a private company focused on determining personalized treatments for cancer victims.

**RECEPTION 3:30 • LECTURE 2:30 – 3:20**  
**PHYSICS ASTRONOMY BLDG. (PAA) A114**

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