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**TOPIC: What Biopharma Companies Need to Know About the “America Invents Act”**

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In September 2011, President Obama signed the *America Invents Act* (Public Law 112–29) into law, which reforms the US patent system for the first time in nearly 60 years. This patent system reform will affect all stages of the patent process, from pre-filing activities to post-grant challenges to patent litigation. These changes will have a particularly important impact on the biopharmaceutical industry.

Without question, biopharma companies will need to adjust their patent strategies to account for the changes this new Act will make on the patent law. It is crucial for all biopharma executives, especially legal professionals and licensing and business development executives, to be aware of the implications of this new law so that they can evaluate their companies’ publication, patenting and competitive intelligence programs in view of these changes, and continue to leverage their intellectual property to maximize value and retain their competitive edge.

New York Pharma Forum has gathered a panel of three attorneys who can clearly explain the changes brought about by the “America Invents Act” and how they will impact your business in valuation, licensing and acquisition of patents, among other areas. They will also discuss some techniques to consider when addressing various risks that these changes may bring, from the licensor/licensee, buyer/seller and other perspectives. They will discuss what steps companies in the industry need to take while implementation of the new law is being phased in, and also answer any questions that you may have.