**Kenneth J. Woolcott**

**Introduction**

Kenneth J. Woolcott is an American businessman, corporate attorney and entrepreneur with over 20 years of experience in the biotech and high tech industry. His early career in biotech included success at Hybritech (sold to Eli Lilly for over $400M) and over a decade as the General Counsel and Licensing Executive at IDEC Pharmaceuticals Corporation (now [Biogen-IDEC](http://www.biogenidec.com/)), where he was part of the executive team that transformed a $50M Kliener Perkins start up into an $11B enterprise. IDEC’s success was based on developing and marketing Rituxan, one of the most successful cancer drugs in history that has profoundly enhanced the lives of millions of people throughout the world. (World-wide sales estimated at $10B annually.) From 2004 to 2010, Woolcott served as a trustee and chairman of the Tech Transfer Committee at the Sanford- Burnham Medical Research Institute. He continues to consult in the healthcare industry as Woolcott Bioscience Strategies. In 2002, he founded [Six Degrees Capital](http://www.linkedin.com/company/six-degrees-capital) a private investment firm, which included a minority interest in the former Seattle Supersonics of the NBA, numerous start up healthcare companies as well as the development of Kerry Park Court. His latest venture is iPi, the “iPioneering” space for consumer-driven curation that blends mobile, social media and e-commerce.

**Biography**

Kenneth J. Woolcott was born in Tacoma, Washington to hard working parents of modest means. His father was a construction worker and his mother worked up to three jobs, including as a waitress, a janitor, and as a secretary in the Air Force to support the family. Woolcott's family couldn't afford Sonics tickets when he was growing up, so he'd listen to the games on the radio, carefully recording the statistics of stars like Spencer Haywood and Slick Watts in a spiral notebook. For most of his life, a love of all things basketball was a personal passion.  His business success was combined with this passion in 2002 when he became a minority owner in the Seattle Sonics Basketball team.  He now lives in the [Queen Anne neighborhood of Seattle](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queen_Anne%2C_Seattle). He first discovered the Queen Anne neighborhood when he was a young student who used to jog up, Queen Anne Avenue North, also known as the Counterbalance, the steepest hill in Seattle. He used to take a break at Kerry Park and fell in love with the sweeping views of Puget Sound, downtown Seattle, Elliott Bay and Mount Rainier. His charitable foundation, *Heaven is a Playground*; along with other donors including the Sonics/Storm helped fund the children’s basketball court that is located in lower Kerry Park.

**Academics**

After graduating from Pacific Lutheran University with a B.S. in Biochemistry and attending the University of Maryland’s school of Chemical Engineering, he obtained his J.D, from George Washington University School of Law (GW). One of his most gratifying accomplishments in law school was leading students and alumni in a nine month long successful fight to repel GW’s plan to eliminate the Night Law School program from the GW Law School. This was headline news in Washington, D.C. and culminated in the public support of then Chief Justice Warren Burger (a night law school graduate in Minnesota) supporting the opportunity afforded by the night law school program at GW. Ultimately, the administration’s proposal was scraped and the opportunity for future generations of hardworking professionals to attend Night Law School at GW was preserved.

**Career**

Upon graduation from law school, Ken returned Westas *Intellectual Property and Licensing Counsel* **at** [**Hybritech,**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beckman_Coulter) **Inc., San Diego, CA (later acquired by Beckman Coulter from Eli Lilly).** [Woolcott spent over 12 years at IDEC Pharmaceuticals Corporation](http://www.thefreelibrary.com/KENNETH%2BWOOLCOTT%2BPROMOTED%2BTO%2BVICE%2BPRESIDENT%2C%2BGENERAL%2BCOUNSEL%2B%26...-a014728932) (now [Biogen-IDEC](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biogen_Idec)) in key legal and management positions. He has provided strategic counsel on deals encompassing over $1B in global corporate alliances and public financings. He has contributed legal leadership and team influence in the development and FDA approval of two oncology drugs, RITUXAN (first antibody approved for cancer) and ZEVALIN (first [radioimmunotherapy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Radioimmunotherapy) approved for cancer), which have generated worldwide sales of over $10B. In addition, he has provided leadership in diverse and challenging roles based on the growth and needs of several organizations, including [Six Degrees Capital](http://www.linkedin.com/company/six-degrees-capital), a real estate and investment firm; The [Seattle Supersonics Pro Basketball team](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seattle_SuperSonics); and the development of the Seattle-based luxury residential property [Kerry Park Court](http://www.kerryparkcourt.com). His latest venture is iPi, the iPioneering space for consumer-driven group purchasing that blends both online and traditional advertising. He is active in many charities, both in his home the Queen Anne neighborhood of Seattle, as well as global initiatives.

**Sports**

From 2002 to 2006, during the time when the [Seattle Supersonics](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CKJWoolcott%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CTemporary%20Internet%20Files%5CContent.IE5%5CL4EJS0QI%5CSeattle%20Supersonics) were based in Seattle, Howard Schultz generally acted as the public face of the [Seattle Supersonics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seattle_SuperSonics) ownership. In July 2006, Schultz sold the team to a group of businessmen from [Oklahoma City](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oklahoma_City) for $350 million. The team now plays in Oklahoma as the [Oklahoma City Thunder](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oklahoma_City_Thunder). During the time that the team was based in Seattle, Howard Schultz had 58 partners or minor owners, (Basketball Club of Seattle, L.L.P.) one of whom was [Kenneth J. Woolcott](http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/news/local/links/sonicsowners05.html).

**#**