Chiral Sulfinamide/Achiral Sulfonic Acid Co-Catalyzed Enantioselective Protonation of Enol Silanes

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Supporting Information

1. General Information

Materials Protonation reactions were performed in oven-dried 2-dram vials; all other reactions were performed in oven-dried round bottom flasks unless otherwise noted. The vials and flasks were fitted with rubber septa and reactions were conducted under air. Stainless steel syringes were used to transfer air- and moisture-sensitive liquids. Flash chromatography was performed using silica gel ZEOprep60 ECO 40–63 micron from American International Chemical, Inc. Commercial reagents were purchased from Sigma Aldrich, Alfa Aesar, Strem, Lancaster or TCI, and used as received with the following exceptions: toluene, dichloromethane, tetrahydrofuran, diethyl ether, *t*-butyl methyl ether and methanol were dried by passing through columns of activated alumina; acetonitrile was dried by passing through a column of activated molecular sieves. Triethylamine and chlorotrimethylsilane were distilled from CaH2 at 760 torr.

Instrumentation Proton nuclear magnetic resonance (¹H NMR) spectra and carbon nuclear magnetic resonance $(^{13}C$ NMR) spectra were recorded on Varian Mercury-400 (400 MHz), Inova-500 (500 MHz) and Inova-600 (600 MHz) spectrometers. Chemical shifts for protons are reported in parts per million downfield from tetramethylsilane and are referenced to residual protium in the NMR solvent (CHCl₃ = δ) 7.27). Chemical shifts for carbon are reported in parts per million downfield from tetramethylsilane and are referenced to the carbon resonances of the solvent (CDCl₃ = δ 77.0). Data are represented as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (br = broad, s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, p=pentet, m = multiplet), coupling constants in Hertz (Hz), integration. Infrared (IR) spectra were obtained using a Bruker Optics Tensor 27 FTIR spectrophotometer. Data are represented as follows: frequency of absorption (cm^{-1}) , intensity of absorption (s = strong). Optical rotations were measured using a 1 mL cell with a 0.5 dm path length on a Jasco DIP 370 digital polarimeter. High Resolution Mass Spectrometry (HRMS) data were obtained at the Harvard University mass spectrometry facility or on an Agilent Technologies 6120 quadrupole LC/MS instrument. Chiral HPLC analysis was performed using an Agilent Technologies 1200 series instrument with commercial Chiralpak and Chiralcel columns.

Abbreviations 2,4-diNBSA – 2,4-dinitrobenzenesulfonic acid, 2,6-(*t*-Bu)2PhOH - 2,6-di-*t*-butyl phenol, ee = enantiomeric excess, $HPLC = high performance liquid chromatography, DIPEA =$ diisopropylethylamine, $Et_3N =$ triethylamine, $AcOH =$ acetic acid, $DCM =$ dichloromethane, TBME = *t*butyl methyl ether, MeCN = acetonitrile, THF = tetrahydrofuran. LBA = Lewis acid-assisted Brønsted acid $(SnCl₄ / 2, 6$ -dimethylphenol)

Computational Methods All theoretical work was performed using the Odyssey cluster supported by the FAS Sciences Division Research Computing Group at Harvard University. Calculations were carried out using density functional theory as implemented by the Gaussian $0.9¹$ suite of programs. Structures were fully optimized in gas phase using the meta-GGA functional M05-2 X^2 with the 6-31+g(d,p) basis set. Transition states were located using the quasi-Newton searching. Frequency analysis was performed on all stationary points to verify that transition states had one imaginary frequency corresponding to the motion along the reaction coordinate.

Cartesian coordinates of the optimized transition states were used as input for the NCIPLOT program.³ Promolecular densities were generated for intermolecular interactions with an r value of 0.95. The default cutoff values for ρ (density) and RDG (reduced density gradient) of 0.2 and 1.0, respectively were used for construction of the isosurface. VMD viewer version 1.9 was used for visualization of the isosurfaces and image rendering. NCI surfaces correspond to $s = 0.3$ au with the color scale set to $-3.0 <$ $\rho < 3.0$ au.

2. Catalyst preparation and characterization data

Catalysts **1a** and **1c** were prepared using previously reported methods.4

Mesitylenesulfinyl chloride $(B)^5$ Mesitylene (277 µL, 2.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added dropwise to a suspension of bismuth (III) chloride (31 mg, 0.1 mmol, 5 mol%) in thionyl chloride (1.46 mL, 20 mmol, 10.0 equiv). The flask was equipped with a condenser and the reaction mixture was stirred in an oil bath at 75 ˚C for 1 h. The flask was cooled in an ice bath and the remaining thionyl chloride was removed under vacuum yielding a yellow liquid. In order to remove the bismuth catalyst, 50 mL hexanes was added, and the organic phase was filtered through a plug of cotton wool. The organic phase was concentrated to give mesitylenesulfinyl chloride **B** as a yellow liquid that was used without further purification.

Catalyst *(S,S,S)-***1b.** A solution of the crude mesitylenesulfinyl chloride **B** (2.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in dichloromethane was added dropwise to a solution of *(S,S)-*aminourea **A** (738 mg, 2.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and triethylamine (279 µL, 2.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in dichloromethane. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h and then concentrated under vacuum. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography, eluting with a gradient of 20–45% ethyl acetate in hexanes to give *(S,S,S)-***1b** as a white solid

(578 mg, 1.1 mmol, 54% yield) as well as the diastereomer *(S,S,R)-***1b'** as a white solid (374 mg, 0.7 mmol, 35% yield). IR (thin film) 3225 (br), 2934, 1699 (s), 1574, 1560, 1476, 1391 (s), 1325 (s), 1277 (s), 1171, 1119 (s) 1067, 1024 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.38 (br s, 1H), 7.71 (br s, 2H), 6.93 (br, s, 2H), 6.84 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 5.86 (d, $J = 4.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.73 (m, 1H), 3.04 (heptet, $J = 4.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.60 (s, 6H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 2.20–2.38 (m, 2H), 1.86–1.98 (m, 2H), 1.32–1.59 (m, 4H); 13C NMR $(125 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3)$ δ = 156.7, 141.5, 141.2, 136.6, 136.1, 131.8 (q, *J* = 33 Hz), 131.1, 123.2 (q, *J* = 173 Hz), 116.9, 114.8, 63.7, 52.4, 35.1, 33.5, 25.0, 25.0, 21.1, 19.3; HRMS (ESI⁺) exact mass calculated for $[M+H]$ (C₂₄H₂₈F₆N₃O₂S) requires m/z 536.173, found m/z 536.180; $[\alpha]_D^{23.3} = +180.4$ ($c = 1.0$, CHCl₃).

*(R,R)-***1d:** *tert*-butyl sulfonyl chloride (86 mg, 0.55 mmol, 1.1 equiv) was added to a solution of *(R,R)* aminourea **A** (185 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and triethylamine (77 μ L, 0.55 mmol, 1.1 equiv) in dichloromethane. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h and then concentrated under vacuum. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography, eluting with a gradient of 50–85% ethyl acetate in hexanes to give **1d** as a white solid (208 mg, 0.43 mmol, 85% yield). IR (thin film) 3360 (br), 2970 (s), 1709 (s), 1568, 1475, 1447, 1379 (s), 1366 (s), 1279 (s), 1223, 1161, 1128 (s), 951 (s) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, d₄-methanol) δ = 8.01 (s, 2H), 7.46 (s, 1H), 3.54 (dt, *J* = 11.0, 4.1 Hz,

1H), 3.11 (dt, *J* = 11.5, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 2.02–2.18 (m, 2H), 1.75–1.82 (m, 2H), 1.29–1.53 (m, 4H), 1.35 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, d₄-methanol) $\delta = 157.2, 143.6, 133.2$ (g, $J = 33$ Hz), 125.0 (g, $J = 272$ Hz), 119.3 , 155.5, 60.5, 59.7, 55.6, 35.4, 34.5, 26.4, 26.1, 24.7 HRMS (ESI⁺) exact mass calculated for [M+H] $(C_{19}H_{26}F_6N_3O_3S)$ requires m/z 490.152, found m/z 490.162; $[\alpha]_D^{23.7}$ = +24.8 (c = 1.0, CHCl₃).

Catalyst 1e was prepared using a previously reported method.⁶ Catalyst 2 was prepared using a previously reported method.⁷

 (R) -N**-(cyclohexyl)-tert-butanesulfinamide (3):**⁸ Ti(OEt)₄ (415 µL, 2.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv) was added to a solution of cyclohexanone (114 µL, 1.1 mmol, 1.1 equiv) and (*R*)-*tert*-butanesulfinamide (121 mg, 1.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in THF (4 mL). The reaction mixture was heated at 60 ˚C for 4 h. Upon completion the reaction mixture was cooled to -20 °C and NaBH₄ (115 mg, 3.0 mmol, 3.0 equiv) was added. After 5 h the reaction was quenched by slow addition of methanol (2 mL). The mixture was poured into brine

with rapid stirring. The resulting suspension was filtered through a plug of celite and washed with ethyl acetate. The filtrate was washed with brine and extracted twice with ethyl acetate. The combined organic portions were dried over sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated *in vacuo.* The crude product was purified by silica gel flash chromatography, eluting with a gradient of 50–85% ethyl acetate in hexanes to give the desired product as a white solid (177 mg, 87% yield). IR (thin film) 3100 (br), 2930 (s), 2855, 1450, 1364, 1184, 1053 (s), 978 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 3.20 (m, 1H), 2.98 (br d, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 1.90–2.00 (m, 2H), 1.66–1.76 (m, 2H), 1.54–1.66 (m, 1H), 1.10–1.37 (m, 5H), 1.18 (s, 9H); 13C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 55.4, 54.4, 35.5, 34.3, 25.7, 25.0, 24.7, 22.8; HRMS (ESI⁺) exact mass calculated for [M+H] (C₁₀H₂₂NOS) requires m/z 204.134, found m/z 204.146; $[\alpha]_D^{23.7} = -93.2$ ($c = 1.0$, $CHCl₃$).

General procedure A for the synthesis of sulfinamide catalysts (4a–4e): Sulfinamide catalysts were prepared following a procedure developed by Ellman et al.⁹

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Anhydrous copper (II) sulfate (480 mg, 3.0 mmol, 3.0 equiv) was added to a solution of aldehyde (1.1 mmol, 1.1 equiv) and *(R)*-*tert*-butanesulfinamide (121 mg, 1.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in dichoromethane (0.5 mL, 2.0 M). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 20 h, diluted with dichloromethane and filtered through a plug of Celite. The solution was concentrated *in vacuo* and dissolved in wet tetrahydrofuran (2 mL). Sodium borohydride (114 mg, 3.0 mmol, 3.0 equiv) was added and the mixture was stirred for 2 h. The reaction was quenched by dropwise addition of saturated aqueous Rochelle's salt (5 mL) and extracted with diethyl ether $(2 \times 10 \text{ mL})$. The organic phase was washed with brine (5 mL) , dried with sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography, eluting with a gradient of 55–100% diethyl ether in hexanes.

*(R)-N***-(***n-***propyl)-***tert***-butanesulfinamide (4a)** was obtained as a colorless oil (142 mg, 87% yield). IR (thin film) 3200 (br), 2960 (s), 2934, 2874, 1475, 1458, 1364, 1204, 1045 (s), 899 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 3.13–3.20 (m, 2H), 3.03 (dhex, $J = 6.9$, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 1.58 (hex, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 1.21 (s, 9H), 0.94 (t, $J = 7.4$)

Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 55.5, 47.5, 24.3, 22.6, 11.3; MS (ESI-APCI) exact mass calculated for [M+H] (C₇H₁₈NSO) requires m/z 164.1, found m/z 164.1; $[\alpha]_D^{22.8} = -80.4$ ($c = 1.0$, $CHCl₃$.¹⁰

*(R)-N***-(2,2,3,3,3-pentafluoropropyl)-***tert***-butanesulfinamide (4b)** was obtained as a white solid (185 mg, 73% yield). IR (thin film) 3196 (br), 2950, 1352, 1294, 1281, 1223 (s), 1204, 173, 1119 (s), 1061 (s), 959, 912 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 3.84–3.66 (m, 2H), 3.55 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 1H), 1.25 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR $(125 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3)$ δ = 118.8 (qt, *J* = 286, 35 Hz), 113.2 (tq, *J* = 254, 37 Hz), 57.1, 45.6 (t, *J* = 24 Hz), 22.5; HRMS (ESI⁺) exact mass calculated for [M+H] ($C_7H_{13}F_5NSO$) requires m/z 254.056, found m/z 254.071; $[\alpha]_D^{23.2} = -56.4$ ($c = 1.0$, CHCl₃).

 (R) -N**-benzyl-tert-butanesulfinamide (4d)** was obtained as a white solid (177 mg, 84% yield) and ¹H NMR was in agreement with the literature.¹¹

*(S)-N***-(4-trifluoromethylbenzyl)-***tert***-butanesulfinamide (4e)** was obtained as a white solid (220 mg, 79% yield). IR (thin film) 3187 (br), 2974, 2928, 2866, 1458, 1420, 1367, 1323 (s), 1161 (s), 1123 (s), 1111 (s), 1067 (s), 1040 (s), 1015 (s) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.62 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (d, *J* =

8.2 Hz, 2H), 4.42 (dd, *J* = 14.7, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 4.36 (dd, *J* = 14.2, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 3.59 (br s, 1H), 1.26 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 142.6, 130.0 (q, *J* = 32 Hz), 128.4, 125.6 (q, *J* = 4 Hz), 124.1 (q, *J* $=$ 272 Hz), 56.1, 48.9, 22.7; HRMS (ESI⁺) exact mass calculated for [M+H] (C₁₂H₁₇F₆NOS) requires m/z 280.090, found m/z 280.100; $[\alpha]_D^{23.2} = +62.0$ ($c = 0.1$, CHCl₃).

*(R)-N***-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)benzyl)-***tert***-butanesulfinamide (4f)** was obtained as a white solid (271 mg, 78% yield). IR (thin film) 3300 (br), 2978, 2870, 1460, 1381, 1350, 1279 (s), 1228, 1171 (s), 1132 (s), 1055 (s), 887 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.81 (s, 3H), 4.47 (dd, J = 14.7, 5.4 Hz, 2H), 4.40 (dd, $J = 14.7$, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 3.66 (br s, 1H), 1.27 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (125)

MHz, CDCl3) δ = 141.3, 132.1 (q, *J* = 33 Hz), 128.2 (q, *J* = 3 Hz), 123.2 (q, *J* = 273 Hz), 121.7 (q, *J* = 4 Hz), 56.5, 48.5, 22.8; HRMS (ESI⁺) exact mass calculated for [M+H] ($C_{13}H_{16}F_6NOS$) requires m/z 348.078, found m/z 348.089; $[\alpha]_D^{23.7} = -41.2$ ($c = 1.0$, CHCl₃).

*(R)-N***-(5,5,4,4,3,3,2,2-octafluoropentyl)-***tert***-butanesulfinamide (4c)**:

Dess–Martin periodinane (3.3 g, 7.8 mmol, 1.3 equiv) was added to 2,2,3,3,4,4,5,5-octafluoropentanol (836 mL, 6.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in dichloromethane (20 mL). The reaction was stirred for 2 h at room temperature and quenched with an aqueous solution of 1:1 sodium bicarbonate/sodium thiosulfate. The water layer was extracted with diethyl ether (2 x 50 mL) and the combined organic phases were washed with brine, dried with sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated to provide the crude hydrate that was used without further purification. Anhydrous copper (II) sulfate (2.8 g, 18.0 mmol, 3.0 equiv) was added to a solution of the crude hydrate (6.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and *(R)*-*tert*-butanesulfinamide (726 mg, 6.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in dichoromethane (2.0 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 20 h, diluted with dichloromethane and filtered through a plug of celite. The solution was concentrated and dissolved in wet tetrahydrofuran (10 mL). Sodium borohydride (684 mg, 18.0 mmol, 3.0 equiv) was added and the mixture was stirred for 2 h. The reaction was quenched by dropwise addition of saturated aqueous Rochelle's salt (20 mL) and extracted with diethyl ether (2 x 100 mL). The organic phase was washed with brine (20 mL), dried with sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography, eluting with a gradient of 55–100% diethyl ether in hexanes to give *(R)-N*-(5,5,4,4,3,3,2,2-octafluoropentyl)-*tert*-butanesulfinamide (**4c**) as a white solid (1.37 g, 4.1

mmol, 68% yield). IR (thin film) 3204 (br), 2970, 1460, 1395, 1368, 1289, 1228, 1165 (s), 1126 (s), 1061 (s), 955, 901, 806, 762 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 6.06 (tt, *J* = 52.0, 5.3 Hz, 1H), 3.66–3.89 (m, 2H), 3.64 (br s, 1H), 1.26 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 115.7 (tt, *J* = 255, 31 Hz),

111.0 (m), 110.1 (m), 107.6 (tt, $J = 254$, 31 Hz), 57.0, 45.8 (t, $J = 23$ Hz), 22.4; HRMS (ESI⁺) exact mass calculated for [M+H] (C₉H₁₄F₈NOS) requires m/z 336.059, found m/z 336.070; [α]_D^{23.0} = -39.0 (c = 1.0, $CHCl₃$).

3. Substrate Preparation and Characterization Data

Synthesis of 2-aryl cyclic ketones: All α-aryl cyclic ketones were prepared by α-arylation of trimethylsilyl (TMS) enol ethers with aryl halides as developed by Rawal et al. 12

General procedure B: To a solution of trimethylsiloxycyclohexene (3.9 mL, 20 mmol, 2.0 equiv), Bu3SnF (6.18 g, 20 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and aryl iodide (10 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in benzene (40 mL) under nitrogen was added a solution of Pd₂(dba)₃ (0.23 g, 0.25 mmol, 2 mol%), *t*-Bu₃P•BF₄ (145 mg, 0.5 mmol, 4 mol%) and triethylamine (174 μ L, 1.25 mmol, 10 mol%) in benzene (5 mL) at room temperature. The resultant mixture was heated to 80 ˚C for 24 h. After cooling to room temperature, the reaction mixture was diluted with diethyl ether (200 mL) and filtered through a plug of Celite. The solution was washed with 1 M aqueous NaOH (2 x 30 mL), followed by brine (50 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography, eluting with a gradient of 8–20% diethyl ether in hexanes.

α-Aryl ketones **6a–j** are all known compounds and 1H NMR were found to be in agreement with the literature: **6a, 6b, 6f, 6h,¹² 6c, 6d, 6j**, ¹³ **6g**, ¹⁴ **6e**15.

Preparation of silyl enol ether substrates: All silyl enol ether substrates were prepared by a procedure reported by Dunogues et al.¹⁶

General procedure C: Pyridine (453 µL, 5.6 mmol, 1.25 equiv) and trimethylsilyl chloride (713 µL, 5.6 mmol, 1.25 equiv) were added sequentially to a solution of the ketone (4.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in 1:1 hexanes/acetonitrile (50 mL). A solution of sodium iodide (840 mg, 5.6 mmol, 1.25 equiv) in acetonitrile (10 mL) was added to the reaction mixture dropwise over 30 min. The solution was stirred for 20 h at room temperature and then extracted with hexanes (2 x 30 mL). The hexanes layer was washed with acetonitrile (10 mL) and ice-cold water (10 mL), dried with sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated. The product was purified using flash column chromatography, eluting with hexanes.

Preparation of silyl enol ethers in >99% regioisomeric purity: All silyl enol ether substrates were purified to $>99\%$ purity by a procedure developed by Yamamoto et al. 17

General procedure D: To a solution of 2,6-dimethylphenol (24 mg, 0.2 mmol, 5 mol%) in toluene (5 mL) was added a 1 M solution of tin tetrachloride in dichloromethane (0.2 mL, 0.2 mmol) at room temperature. The solution was cooled to –78 ˚C and a solution of the silyl enol ether (4.0 mmol, 97% purity) in toluene (0.5 ml) was added dropwise. After being stirred for 1 h at -78° C, the reaction was quenched with NaHCO₃, extracted with diethyl ether $(2 \times 25 \text{ mL})$, dried over sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude oil was purified by column chromatography on silica gel, eluting with hexanes to afford the silyl enol ether (>99% regioisomeric purity).

2-Phenyl-1-(trimethylsiloxy)cyclohex-1-ene (**5a**) was prepared using general procedure C. The crude reaction mixture was a 96:4 mixture of thermodynamic/kinetic regioisomers. The crude product could be purified to >99% purity via column chromatography eluting with hexanes or using general procedure D with 6 mol% LBA solution. The silyl enol ether was isolated as a

colorless oil (740 mg, 3.0 mmol, 74% yield) with the $\mathrm{^{1}H}$ NMR spectrum in agreement with the literature.¹⁸ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.35 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 1.3 Hz, 2H), 7.12–7.15 (m, 1H), 7.25–7.28 (m, 2H), 2.34–2.38 (m, 2H), 2.15–2.19 (m, 2H), 1.64–1.77 (m, 4H), –0.05 (s, 9H).

2-(4-Methylphenyl)-1-(trimethylsiloxy)cyclohex-1-ene (**5b**) was prepared using general procedure C. The crude reaction mixture was a 97:3 mixture of thermodynamic/kinetic regioisomers. The crude product could be purified to >99% purity using general procedure D with 5 mol% LBA solution. The silyl enol ether was isolated as a colourless oil (708 mg, 2.7 mmol, 67% yield)

with the ¹H NMR spectrum in agreement with the literature.¹³ ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.26 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H). 7.08 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 2.32–2.36 (m, 2H), 2.31 (s, 3H), 2.15–2.18 (m, 2H), 1.65–1.76 (m, 4H), –0.04 (s, 9H).

2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-1-(trimethylsiloxy)cyclohex-1-ene (**5c**) was prepared using general procedure C. The crude reaction mixture was a 96:4 mixture of thermodynamic/kinetic regioisomers. The crude product could be purified to >99% purity using general procedure D using 6 mol% LBA solution. The silyl enol ether was isolated as a colorless oil (980 mg,

3.5 mmol, 88% yield) with the ${}^{1}H$ NMR spectrum in agreement with the literature.¹³ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl3) δ = 7.29 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.83 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 2.31–2.35 (m, 2H), 2.14–2.17 (m, 2H), 1.65–1.77 (m, 4H), –0.04 (s, 9H).

2-(4-Chlorophenyl)-1-(trimethylsiloxy)cyclohex-1-ene (**5d**) was prepared using general procedure C. The crude reaction mixture was a 98:2 mixture of thermodynamic/kinetic regioisomers. The crude product could be purified to >99% purity via column chromatography eluting with hexanes or using general procedure D using 3 mol% LBA solution. The silyl enol ether was

isolated as a colorless oil (933 mg, 3.3 mmol, 82% yield) with the ${}^{1}H$ NMR spectrum in agreement with the literature.¹³ ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.31 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 2.31– 2.34 (m, 2H), 2.15–2.18 (m, 2H), 1.67–1.75 (m, 4H), –0.02 (s, 9H).

2-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-(trimethylsiloxy)cyclohex-1-ene (**5e**) was prepared using general procedure C. The crude reaction mixture was a 97:3 mixture of thermodynamic/kinetic regioisomers. The crude product could be purified to >99% purity using general procedure D using 5 mol% LBA solution. The silyl enol ether was isolated as a colorless oil (782 mg, 2.9 mmol, 73%

yield). IR (thin film) 2932, 1655, 1508 (s), 1356, 1252 (s), 1219, 1192 (s), 1175, 1157, 1132, 1092, 995, 910 (s), 862 (s), 833 (s), 752 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.34 (ddt, *J* = 8.8, 5.6, 2.6 Hz, 2H), 6.97 (tt, *J* = 8.8, 2.6 Hz, 2H), 2.31–2.35 (m, 2H), 2.13–2.17 (m, 2H), 1.62–1.80 (m, 4H), –0.02 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 160.3 (d, *J* = 244 Hz), 145.3, 136.7, 129.5 (d, *J* = 7 Hz), 114.8, 113.8 $(d, J = 21 \text{ Hz})$, 30.5, 29.0, 22.9, 22.7, 0.0.

2-(4-Methylbenzoate)-1-(trimethylsiloxy)cyclohex-1-ene (**5f**) was prepared using general procedure C. The crude reaction mixture was a 95:5 mixture of thermodynamic/kinetic regioisomers. The crude product could be purified to $>99\%$ using general procedure D using 7 mol% LBA solution. The silyl enol ether was isolated as a colorless oil (850

mg, 2.8 mmol, 69% yield). IR (thin film) 2934, 1721 (s), 1645, 1604, 1435, 1357, 1275 (s), 1250 (s), 1194 (s), 1180 (s), 1136, 1111 (s), 1099 (s), 995, 910 (s), 862 (s), 841 (s), 773, 754, 706 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.95 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 2.35–2.39 (m, 2H), 2.14–2.18 (m, 2H), 1.60–1.78 (m, 4H), –0.03 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 167.8$, 147.7, 146.7, 129.2, 128.5, 127.1, 115.5, 52.1, 31.4, 29.1, 23.5, 23.3, 0.87; HRMS (ESI-APCI) exact mass calculated for [M+H] $(C_{17}H_{25}O_2Si)$ requires m/z 305.14947, found m/z 305.14952.

2-(3-Methylphenyl)-1-(trimethylsiloxy)cyclohex-1-ene (**5g**) was prepared using general procedure C. The crude reaction mixture was a 98:2 mixture of thermodynamic/kinetic regioisomers. The crude product could be purified to >99% purity via column chromatography eluting with hexanes or using general procedure D using 3 mol% LBA solution. The

silyl enol ether was isolated as a colorless oil (708 mg, 2.7 mmol, 67% yield). IR (thin film) 2930, 1655, 1447, 1356, 1250 (s), 1203 (s), 1178, 1130, 923 (s), 839 (s), 781, 752, 733, 702 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.23 (s, 1H), 7.17–7.21 (m, 2H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 2.34–2.38 (m, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 2.14–2.18 (m, 2H), 1.62–1.80 (m, 4H), –0.01 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 145.0, 140.7, 136.4, 129.0, 127.0, 125.7, 124.8, 115.8, 30.6, 28.9, 23.0, 22.8, 20.9, 0.0; HRMS (ESI-APCI) exact mass calculated for $[M+H]$ (C₁₆H₂₅OSi) requires m/z 261.15964, found m/z 261.16123.

2-(2-Methylphenyl)-1-(trimethylsiloxy)cyclohex-1-ene (**5h**) was prepared using general procedure C. The crude reaction mixture was a 99:1 mixture of thermodynamic/kinetic regioisomers. The crude product could be purified to >99% purity via column chromatography eluting with hexanes. The silyl enol ether was isolated as a colorless oil (612 mg, 2.3 mmol, 58% yield). IR

(thin film) 2930, 1668, 1356, 1250 (s), 1207 (s), 1190 (s), 1138, 995, 912 (s), 858 (s), 839 (s), 752 (s), 725 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.03–7.17 (m, 4H), 2.22 (s, 3H), 2.10–2.24 (m, 4H), 1.81– 1.70 (m, 2H), 1.63–1.70 (m, 2H), –0.16 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 145.1, 141.5, 136.8, 129.8, 129.5, 126.3, 125.3, 116.9, 30.9, 30.7, 23.9, 23.6, 19.8, 0.5; HRMS (ESI-APCI) exact mass calculated for $[M+H]$ (C₁₆H₂₅OSi) requires m/z 260.1596. This compound is not stable under these conditions but the corresponding ketone was observed. HRMS (ESI-APCI) exact mass calculated for [M+H] ($C_{13}H_{17}O$) requires m/z 189.12012, found m/z 189.11666.

2-Naphthyl-1-(trimethylsiloxy)cyclohex-1-ene (**5i**) was prepared using general procedure C. The crude reaction mixture was a 96:4 mixture of thermodynamic/kinetic regioisomers. The crude product could be purified to >99% purity using general procedure D using 6 mol% LBA solution. The silyl enol ether was isolated as a colorless oil (780 mg, 2.6 mmol,

65% yield) with the ¹H NMR spectrum in agreement with the literature.^{13 1}H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.73–7.80 (m, 4H), 7.58 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.38–7.43 (m, 2H), 2.47–2.49 (m, 2H), 2.21–2.24 (m, 2H), 1.72–1.82 (m, 4H), –0.06 (s, 9H).

2-Phenyl-1-(trimethylsiloxy)cyclohept-1-ene (**5j**) was prepared using general procedure C. The crude reaction mixture was a 96:4 mixture of thermodynamic/kinetic regioisomers. The crude product could be purified to >99% purity using general procedure D with 6 mol% LBA solution. The silyl enol ether was isolated as a colorless oil (570 mg, 2.2 mmol, 54% yield) with the ${}^{1}H$

NMR spectrum in agreement with the literature.¹³ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.25–7.32 (m, 4H), 7.13 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.42–2.47 (m, 4H), 1.78–1.82 (m, 2H), 1.63–1.70 (m, 4H), –0.07 (s, 9H).

4. General Procedure for Asymmetric Protonation and Product Characterization

General procedure E: Sodium sulfate (45 mg, 3.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv), 2,4-dinitrobenzene sulfonic acid (7.5 mg, 0.17 mmol, 0.12 equiv) and 2,6-di-*tert*-butyl phenol (34 mg, 1.6 mmol, 1.1 equiv) were weighed into a flame-dried vial. The vial was cooled to -78 °C and toluene (1.3 mL) added. After 5 minutes at – 78 ˚C a solution of catalyst *(R)-***4c** (5 mg, 0.015 mmol, 10 mol%) and silyl enol ether (0.15 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in toluene (0.2 mL) was added dropwise to the stirred reaction mixture. The vial was transferred to a –50 ˚C cryo-cool and stirred for 4 d. The reaction was quenched by the addition of saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate (3 mL) and then extracted with diethyl ether (25 mL). The organic layer was washed with brine (5 mL), dried over sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography, eluting with a gradient of 10–35% diethyl ether in hexanes.

2-Phenyl-cyclohexanone (**6a**) was obtained as a white solid in 91% yield (24 mg, 0.14 mmol) and 86% ee. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.31–7.35 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.23–7.27 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.11–7.16 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 3.59–3.64 (dd, *J* $= 12.5, 5.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.45–2.55 (m, 2H), 2.26–2.30 (m, 1H), 2.14–2.15 (m, 1H), 1.99–2.05 (m, 2H), 1.80–1.84 (m, 2H); Enantiomeric excess (ee) was determined

by HPLC with a Chiralpak AS-H column (hexanes/2-propanol = 98:2, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min, μ = 210 nm), t_r (minor, *R*) = 11.8 min., t_r (major, *S*) = 13.6 min; $[\alpha]_D^{23.4} = -92.6$ (*c* = 1.0, CHCl₃).

2-(4-Methylphenyl)cyclohexanone (**6b**) was obtained as a white solid in 92 % yield (26 mg, 0.14 mmol) and 88% ee. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.14 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.02 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 3.56 (dd, $J = 12.0$, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 2.39–2.56 (m, 2H), 2.22 (s, 3H), 2.22–2.27 (m, 1H), 2.12–2.17 (m, 1H), 1.95–2.05 (m, 2H), 1.78–1.84 (m, 2H); Enantiomeric excess (ee) was

determined by HPLC with a Chiralpak AS-H column (hexanes/2-propanol = $98:2$, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min, $\mu = 210$ nm), t_r(minor, *R*) = 9.8 min., t_r(major, *S*) = 11.7 min; $[\alpha]_D^{24.3} = -88.9$ (*c* = 1.0, CHCl₃).

2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)cyclohexanone (**6c**) was obtained as a white solid in 90% yield (27.5 mg, 0.135 mmol) and 86% ee. 1 H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.05 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.56 (dd, *J* = 12.5, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 2.49– 2.53 (m, 2H), 2.22–2.26 (m, 1H), 2.10–2.15 (m, 1H), 1.94–2.02 (m, 2H), 1.75–1.85 (m, 2H); Enantiomeric excess (ee) was determined by HPLC with a Chiralcel OD-H column (hexanes/2-propanol $= 95:5$, flow rate $= 1.0$ mL/min, $\mu = 210$ nm), μ_f (major, $S = 21.9$ min., t_f (minor, $R = 27.5$ min. $[\alpha]_D^{22.8}$ $=-85.2$ ($c = 1.0$, CHCl₃).

2-(4-Chlorophenyl)cyclohexanone (**6d**) was obtained as a white solid in 89 % yield (28 mg, 0.13 mmol) and 89% ee. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 7.30$ (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.07 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 3.59 (dd, *J* = 12.4, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 2.41–2.54 (m, 2H), 2.15–2.28 (m, 2H), 1.95–2.02 (m, 2H), 1.79–1.91 (m, 2H); Enantiomeric excess (ee) was determined by HPLC with a Chiralpak AS-H

column (hexanes/2-propanol = 98:2, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min, μ = 210 nm), t_r(minor, *R*) = 12.4 min. t_r (major, *S*) = 14.5 min; $[\alpha]_D^{24.3}$ = -64.5 (*c* = 1.1, CHCl₃).

2-(4-Fluorophenyl)cyclohexanone (**6e**) was obtained as a white solid in 88% yield (25 mg, 0.13 mmol) and 82% ee. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.10 (ddt, $J = 8.8$, 5.6, 2.9 Hz, 2H), 7.02 (tt, $J = 8.8$, 2.9 Hz, 2H), 3.60 (dd, $J = 12.3$, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 2.52–2.55 (m, 1H), 2.43–2.48 (m, 1H), 2.24–2.29 (m, 1H), 2.14– 2.20 (m, 1H), 1.94–2.04 (m, 2H), 1.77–1.86 (m, 2H); Enantiomeric excess (ee)

was determined by HPLC with a Chiralpak AS-H column (hexanes/2-propanol = $98:2$, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min, $\mu = 210$ nm), t_r(minor) = 12.2 min., t_r(major) = 13.9 min; $[\alpha]_D^{24.3} = -77.2$ ($c = 1.1$, CHCl₃).

2-(4-Methylbenzoate)cyclohexanone (**6f**) was obtained as a white solid in 84% yield (30.7 mg, 0.126 mmol) and 78% ee. 1 H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.00 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.67 (dd, *J* = 12.3, 5.3 Hz, 1H), 2.52–2.56 (m, 1H), 2.44–2.50 (m, 1H), 2.26–2.30 (m, 1H), 2.16–2.20 (m, 1H), 1.99–2.07 (m, 2H), 1.79–1.88 (m,

2H); Enantiomeric excess (ee) was determined by HPLC with a Chiralpak AS-H column (hexanes/2 propanol = 85:15, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min, μ = 210 nm), t_r(minor) = 40.4 min., t_r(major) = 50.7 min; $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{24.3}$ = -59.6 (*c* = 1.05, CHCl₃).

2-(3-Methylphenyl)cyclohexanone (**6g**) was obtained as a white solid in 92 % yield (26 mg, 0.14 mmol) and 84% ee. ${}^{1}H$ NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.17−7.30 (m, 4Η), 3.85 (dd, *J* = 13.2, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 2.52–2.65 (m, 2H), 2.22–2.43 (m, 2H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 2.06–2.17 (m, 2H), 1.85–1.97 (m, 2H); Enantiomeric ratio (er) was determined by HPLC with a Chiralpak AS-H column (hexanes/2-propanol = 98:2, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min, μ = 210 nm),

t(minor) = 10.4 min., t(major) = 11.3 min. $[\alpha]_D^{24.0} = -81.1$ ($c = 1.1$, CHCl₃).

2-(2-Methylphenyl)cyclohexanone (**6h**) was obtained as a white solid in 91 % yield (25.5 mg, 0.137 mmol) and 85% ee. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.12–7.22 (m, 4H), 3.78 (dd, *J =* 12.9, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 2.54–2.58 (m, 1H), 2.47– 2.52 (m, 1H), 2.25–2.30 (m, 1H), 2.18–2.20 (m, 1H), 2.02–2.09 (m, 2H), 1.78–1.89 (m, 2H); Enantiomeric ratio (er) was determined by HPLC with a Chiralcel OD-H column (hexanes/2-propanol = $95:5$, flow rate = 1.0

mL/min, μ = 210 nm), t(major) = 16.8 min., t(minor) = 18.5 min; $[\alpha]_D^{23.4} = -33.0$ ($c = 1.0$, CHCl₃).

2-Naphthyl-cyclohexanone (**6i**) was obtained as a white solid in 93% yield (31 mg, 0.14 mmol) and 82% ee. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.77–7.83 (m, 3H), 7.60 (s, 1H), 7.41–7.46 (m, 2H), 7.27 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 3.77 (dd, *J* = 12.2, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 2.46–2.58 (m, 2H), 2.31–2.36 (m, 1H), 2.12–2.21 (m, 2H), 2.00–2.07 (m,1H), 1.81–1.91 (m, 2H); Enantiomeric excess (ee)

was determined by HPLC with a Chiralpak AS-H column (hexanes/2-propanol = $98:2$, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min, $\mu = 210$ nm), t_r(minor, R) = 15.6 min., t_r(major, S) = 20.7 min; $[\alpha]_D^{24.3} = -84.2$ ($c = 1.0$, $CHCl₃$).

2-Phenyl-cycloheptanone (**6j**) was obtained as an oil in 88 % yield (25 mg, 0.13 mmol) and 73% ee. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.30–7.33 (t, *J* = 7 Hz, 2H), 7.20–7.26 (m, 3H), 3.70–3.73 (dd, *J* = 11, 4 Hz, 1H), 2.67–2.72 (m, 1H), 2.47– 2.54 (m, 1H), 1.95–2.18 (m, 4H), 1.60–1.69 (m, 1H), 1.43–1.48 (m, 2H); Enantiomeric excess (ee) was determined by HPLC with a Chiralpak AS-H column (hexanes/2-propanol = 97:3, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min, μ = 210 nm),

 t_r (minor, *S*) = 10.1 min., t_r (major, *R*) = 13.6 min; $[\alpha]_D^{24.3} = -129.4$ (*c* = 1.0, CHCl₃).

5. Reaction Optimization

a) Effect of variation to the urea portion of the sulfinamide–urea catalyst 1a:

Figure S3: Effect of varying urea portion of catalyst **1a**

3,5-(bistrifluoromethyl)phenylurea catalyst **1a** provides significantly increased reactivity and enantioselectivity relative to all other analogues tested. This points towards a key dual hydrogen bonding interaction, which potentially increases the acidity of the conjugate acid complex and provides greater transition state organization. The results indicate that the urea portion is only advantageous with the very electron deficient 3,5-(bistrifluoromethyl)phenyl substituent and that the sulfinamide group alone is responsible for a significant level of selectivity.

b) NMR solvation studies:

To gain further insight into the phase-transfer proposal we studied the reaction components by NMR.

Spectrum A: sulfinamide–urea catalyst $1a$ in d_6 -benzene.

Spectrum B: NMR analysis of the solution phase when 2,4-diNBSA is stirred in d_6 -benzene for 10 min. Only residual solvent is visible by NMR confirming the acid is insoluble.

Spectrum C: NMR analysis of the solution phase when 15 mol% **1a** and 1.0 equiv 2,4-diNBSA were stirred in d_6 -benzene for 10 min. Peaks corresponding to protons on the sulfonate counterion are visible and integrate to approximately 0.9 relative to the peaks from the protons on **1a** indicating around 13 mol% 2,4-diNBSA is solubilized in the presence of 15 mol% **1a**. Downfield shifts of the aromatic protons as well as significant broadening of the urea N-H protons are suggestive of the urea being involved in hydrogen bonding interactions.

Table S2: Ability of sulfinamide catalysts to solubilize 2,4-diNBSA

When 15 mol% of a urea **2** with no sulfinamide was added, no solubilization was observed. However, addition of 15 mol% sulfinamide **3** or tertiary amine catalyst **1e** brought 0.75 equiv and 1.0 equiv of the acid into solution, respectively. These results indicate the Lewis basic sulfinamide portion is responsible for reactivity, presumably by formation of a soluble conjugate acid species. Notably, for the more electron deficient fluorinated sulfinamide catalysts **4c** and **4f**, less sulfonate is brought into solution. See NMR spectra section for solvation studies with catalysts **3**, **4c** and **4f**.

c) Examination of simple sulfinamide catalyst scaffolds:

Table S3: Effect of substitution on nitrogen Table S4: Effect of substitution adjacent to nitrogen

A screen of simple sulfinamide structures showed promising levels of enantioinduction for those not fully substituted at nitrogen (RNHSO*t*-Bu) (Table S3). Substitution adjacent to the nitrogen was found to be deleterious both to reactivity and selectivity over a number of different scaffolds (Table S4, compare entries 1–3). Additionally, bulky benzyl derivatives such as mesityl gave poor results (entry 6), indicating that too much steric hindrance close to the sulfinamide functional group hinders reactivity and has a negative effect on enantioselectivity. As such, our attention would focus on *N*-monoalkyl sulfinamides.

entry	R	conversion	ee
1	C_2F_5	>95%	72%
2	C_3F_7	>95%	83%
3	C_4F_8H	>95%	86%
4	C_4F_9	78%	69%
5	C_5F_{11}	94%	55%
6	C_6F_{13}	60%	32%
7	C_7F_{15}	40%	34%

Table S5: Effect of electronic variation on *N*benzyl-derived catalysts

Table S5 shows a clear correlation between enantioselectivity and electronic properties of the benzylderived catalysts, with more electron deficient catalysts providing the highest levels of selectivity. Similarly, for the fluoroalkyl-substituted catalysts (Table S6) an increase in selectivity was observed with additional CF₂ units. It is assumed that the enantioselectivity and reactivity then start to drop as the solubility of the catalysts in toluene decreases.

d) Effect of changing solvent:

At one extreme, in hexanes where both 2,4-dinitrobenzene sulfonic acid and catalyst **4f** are insoluble, we observe no reactivity. At the other extreme, in ethereal solvents where the catalyst is fully soluble and the sulfonic acid partially soluble, we see good reactivity but low enantioselectivity due to competing background protonation by the achiral sulfonic acid. Optimal reactivity and selectivity are seen in toluene, where the catalyst is fully soluble but the sulfonic acid is completely insoluble enabling a phase transfer type mechanism to operate whereby the achiral acid is brought into solution by protonation of the sulfinamide catalyst. While fluorinated solvents gave no increase in selectivity for optimal catalyst **4f,** solvent effects were observed with longer chain alkyl fluoride chains where switching from toluene to pentafluorobenzene increased both reactivity and selectivity.

Table S8: Effect of using fluorinated solvents with highly fluorinated catalysts

e) Non-linear effects analysis:

Figure S4: Non-linear effects analysis: effect of catalyst ee on product ee

Data obtained with catalyst **4f** indicates a linear correlation between catalyst and product enantioselectivity, suggesting that only a single molecule of catalyst is involved in the enantiodetermining step.

f) Effect of varying the silyl group:*^a*

^a Silyl enol ether and catalyst were added as a solution in toluene to 2,4-diNBSA in toluene at -78 °C. Reactions were carried out on 0.05 mmol scale at 0.1 M with stirring for 16 h at -40 °C. b ¹H NMR conversion based on silyl enol ether. ^c The ee values were determined by chiral HPLC.

Table S9: Effect of varying the silyl enol ether SiR₃ group

The nature of the silyl group greatly affects reactivity under standard enantioselective protonation conditions employing both sulfinamide–urea catalyst **1a** and simple sulfinamide catalyst **4c**, with additional steric bulk causing a significant drop in reactivity. Interestingly, with bulkier silyl groups the enantioselectivity of the product ketone remained the same for catalyst **1a** and either the same or lower for catalyst **4c**. These results suggest that the silyl group is not closely involved in the enantiodetermining step with catalyst **1a** but more information is needed to assert this for **4c**.

g) Effect of varying achiral proton source:

^a Silyl enol ether and 4c were added as a solution in toluene to 2,4-diNBSA, R-OH and Na₂SO₄ in toluene at -78 °C. Reactions were carried out on 0.05 mmol scale at 0.1 M stirring for 36 h at -50 °C. b ¹H NMR conversion based on silyl enol ether. ^c The ee values were determined by chiral HPLC.

Table S10: Effect of varying the achiral proton source

In table S10, entries 2–6, we vary the sulfonate counterion of the sulfonic acid. No protonation is observed in the absence of a sulfinamide catalyst at -50 °C for entries 2–6 implying that the difference in enantioselectivity observed in the protonation reaction is not due to differences in a competing background pathway. This suggests that the sulfonate counterion is closely associated in the key enantiodetermining step. A phase transfer mechanism is proposed whereby the sulfinamide catalyst brings into solution a catalytic quantity of the acid via S=O protonation to form a soluble conjugate acid. (Note: Some background reactivity is observed at higher temperatures and with soluble sulfonic acids such as triflic acid and methane sulfonic acid).

Table S10, entries 7–13 employ a catalytic quantity of the strong sulfonic acid with an additional stoichiometric proton source. For all entries the rate of the reaction is diminished relative to using stoichiometric 2,4-dinitrobenzenesulfonic acid. Interestingly, while water and various alcohols are effective, very poor reactivity is observed with carboxylic acids suggesting that protonation of the stoichiometric proton source maybe necessary to turn over the reaction. Phenols substituted at the 2 and 6 position provide for optimal enantioselectivity.

Comparing entry 7 and entry 1 indicates that addition of water is detrimental to enantioselectivity. The commercial aromatic sulfonic acids are hydroscopic and accordingly, we found that improved selectivity could be achieved by storing them in vacuum desiccators and adding sodium sulfate as a desiccant to the reaction mixture.

h) Scope using stoichiometric 2,4-diNBSA:*^a*

 6

^a Silyl enol ether and 4c were added as a solution in toluene to 2,4-diNBSA and Na₂SO₄ in toluene at -78 °C. Reactions were carried out on 0.1 mmol scale at 0.1 M with stirring for 36 h at -50 °C. b Isolated yield based on silyl enol ether. c The ee values were determined by chiral HPLC.</sup></sup>

Table S11: Scope for enantioselective protonation reaction using stoichiometric 2,4-diNBSA

Using stoichiometric 2,4-dinitrobenzenesulfonic acid as the sole proton source provides a more rapid reaction with the expense of a slight drop in enantioselectivity.

9. Cartesian Coordinates for Calculated Structures:

Figure 1B

Figure 2A

Figure 2B

Figure 2C

Notes and References

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NMR solvation studies:

To gain further insight into the phase-transfer proposal we studied the reaction components by NMR:

Spectra B: NMR analysis of the solution phase when **1a** is stirred with excess 2,4-diNBSA in d_6 -benzene at rt for 30mins. Peaks corresponding to 2,4-diNBSA integrate to approx 0.9 relative to **1a** indicating solubilization of just under 1 equiv of the acid. Notably, in the absence of catalyst, no 2,4-diNBSA is brought into the solution phase and only the residual benzene peak is observed.

Spectra C: Same procedure with TfOH. For both B and C we observe downfield shifts for the aromatic protons on **1a** as well as broadening of the urea N-H protons which is suggestive of hydrogen bonding interactions.

NMR solvation studies with other potential catalysts indicate that it is the basic nature of the sulfinamide group that enables solvation of the 2,4-dinitrobenzenesulfonic acid. When achiral urea catalysts **2** is used, no solubilization is observed. In contrast tertiary amine catalyst **1e** brings 1.0 eq. of the acid into solution and simple sulfinamide **3** around 0.75 eq. Notably for the more electron deficient sulfonamide catalysts **4c** and **4f** less acid is brought into solution.

Table S12: Ability of sulfinamide catalysts to solubilize 2,4-diNBSA

Catalyst 1**b** ${}^{1}H$ NMR, d₁-chloroform


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{}^{13}C NMR, d<sub>1</sub>-chloroform
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Catalyst **1d**
¹H NMR, d₄-methanol

 ${}^{13}C$ NMR, d₄-methanol

Catalyst **3**

 ${}^{1}H$ NMR, d₁-chloroform

Catalyst **4a**
¹H NMR, d₁-chloroform

Catalyst 4**b**
¹H NMR, d₁-chloroform

Catalyst 4c ${}^{1}H$ NMR, d₁-chloroform

Catalyst **4e**
¹H NMR, d₁-chloroform

¹³C NMR, d₁-chloroform

Catalyst **4f**
¹H NMR, d₁-chloroform

2-Phenyl-1-(trimethylsiloxy)cyclohex-1-ene (5a)
¹H NMR, d₁-chloroform

2-(4-methylphenyl)-1-(trimethylsiloxy)cyclohex-1-ene (5b) ¹H NMR, d₁-chloroform

192 184 176 168 160 152 144 136 128 120 112 104 96 88 80 72 64 56 48 40 32 24 16 8 0 -8 Chemical Shift (ppm)

2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-(trimethylsiloxy)cyclohex-1-ene (5c) ¹H NMR, d₁-chloroform

 $^{13}\mathrm{C}$ NMR, d₁-chloroform

2-(4-chlorophenyl)-1-(trimethylsiloxy)cyclohex-1-ene (5d) ¹H NMR, d₁-chloroform

2-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-(trimethylsiloxy)cyclohex-1-ene (5e)
¹H NMR, d₁-chloroform

2-(4-methylbenzoate)-1-(trimethylsiloxy)cyclohex-1-ene (5f)
¹H NMR, d₁-chloroform

 ${}^{13}C$ NMR, d₁-chloroform

2-(3-methylphenyl)-1-(trimethylsiloxy)cyclohex-1-ene (5g) ¹H NMR, d₁-chloroform

2-(2-methylphenyl)-1-(trimethylsiloxy)cyclohex-1-ene (5h) ¹H NMR, d₁-chloroform

2-(2-Napthyl)-1-(trimethylsiloxy)cyclohex-1-ene (5i) ¹H NMR, d₁-chloroform

2-phenyl-1-(trimethylsiloxy)cyclohept-1-ene (5i)
¹H NMR, d₁-chloroform

2-phenyl-cyclohexanone (6a)
¹H NMR, d₁-chloroform

2-(4-methylphenyl)-cyclohexanone (6b)
¹H NMR, d₁-chloroform

2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-cyclohexanone (6c)
¹H NMR, d₁-chloroform

2-(4-fluorophenyl)-cyclohexanone (6e)
¹H NMR, d₁-chloroform

2-(4-methyl benzoate)-cyclohexanone (6f)
¹H NMR, d₁-chloroform

2-(3-methylphenyl)-cyclohexanone (6g)
¹H NMR, d₁-chloroform

2-(2-methyl)-cyclohexanone (6h)
¹H NMR, d₁-chloroform

2-(2-Napthyl)-cycloheptanone (6i)
¹H NMR, d₁-chloroform

2-(phenyl)-cycloheptanone (6j)
¹H NMR, d₁-chloroform

2-Phenyl-cyclohexanone (6a)

2-(4-methylphenyl)-cyclohexanone (6b)

Signal 1: DAD1 C, Sig=210, 4 Ref=450, 100

2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-cyclohexanone (6c)

2-(4-chlorophenyl)-cyclohexanone (6d)

2-(4-fluorophenyl)-cyclohexanone (6e)

2-(4-methylbenzoate)-cyclohexanone (6f)

2-(3-methylphenyl)-cyclohexanone (6g)

2-(2-methylphenyl)-cyclohexanone (6h)

2-(2-Napthyl)-cyclohexanone (6i)

Totals : 1.97186e4 548.87502

2-phenyl-cycloheptanone (6j)

