Significance: Zakarian and co-workers report the direct enantioselective Michael addition of carboxylic acids to α,β-unsaturated esters using chiral lithium amides as traceless auxiliaries.

Comment: The chiral reagents can be readily recovered in 99% yield by extraction with aqueous acid. Additionally, this protocol has been applied to the enantioselective total synthesis of the presumed structure of pulveraven B.