

## IP Hires: Crowell & Moring, Gibson Dunn, Skadden

By **Steven Trader**

*Law360 (February 16, 2018, 5:35 PM EST)* -- In this week's intellectual property partners on the move, Crowell & Moring boosts its ranks with the addition of a seasoned patent litigator, Gibson Dunn lands a new partner with a high-profile IP and technology transactions practice, and Skadden snags the former leader of Quinn Emanuel's trade secrets practice group. Here are the details on these and other notable IP hires.

### Crowell & Moring Boosts NY Office With Ex-Kirkland IP Atty

Crowell & Moring LLP added to its intellectual property group's New York office with the addition in late January of former Kirkland & Ellis LLP partner Brian Paul Gearing, who brings with him more than a decade of experience in IP litigation and patent portfolio management.

The new partner will mainly focus his practice on IP litigation, including patent litigation before federal district courts and the U.S. International Trade Commission, as well as trade secret, trademark and copyright disputes. He'll advise clients in connection with IP portfolio management and adversarial patent licensing negotiations, and opinion work regarding noninfringement and invalidity.



Brian Gearing

Gearing told Law360 he was particularly impressed by Crowell & Moring's "talented and deep" bench of lawyers, many of whom he's worked with over the years or gotten to know through reputation.

"Combining that with Crowell & Moring's entrepreneurialism and focus on growth of their IP presence in the United States, including in New York and California, and abroad, including in East Asia, made it a perfect fit for my professional and personal goals, and naturally built upon my experience working for clients while living in the U.S. and in Tokyo," Gearing said.

### Gibson Dunn Scores IP Transactions Partner in Silicon Valley

Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP has nabbed former White & Case LLP partner Carrie LeRoy, who will join the firm's Palo Alto, California, office and represent clients in complex intellectual property licensing and cross-border and commercial transactions.

LeRoy's clients have ranged from Fortune 100 companies to startups with emerging technology, and her work has also included mergers and acquisitions, asset purchases, joint development and IP divestitures, patent and other technology license agreements and outsourcing, the firm said.

The new Gibson Dunn partner also counsels clients with respect to ownership, protection and monetization of IP rights, open source software policies and contamination issues and data privacy, according to the firm.



Carrie LeRoy

"It is really the strength of the Gibson platform, the depth of their bench for my practice area — I do a lot of tech transactions and M&A — and they have a phenomenal corporate practice," LeRoy told Law360. "Also the opportunity to really expand the technology transactions practice in the Silicon Valley. And lots of client synergies, in particular in the semiconductor space, that really made a lot of sense for me."

#### **Leason Ellis Scores Ex-Venable IP Litigator in NY**

Leason Ellis LLP has a new intellectual property litigator with more than 35 years of experience in patent litigation, as the firm earlier this month added former Venable LLP partner Rob Isackson to its White Plains, New York, office.

Isackson's practice primarily involves patent litigation — he has nine patent trials under his belt and has led trial teams in more than 40 patent litigations, according to the firm — as well as litigating and counseling in trade secrets, trademarks and copyright matters, the attorney told Law360, adding that he expected his practice to stay the same but hoped to do more opinion work.

"One of the things that stimulated my excitement about coming to Leason Ellis is the fact that they're an IP boutique," Isackson said in an interview. "It's the way I started: with the opportunity to handle all kinds of things, and I really enjoy the variety."



Robert Isackson

#### **Quinn Emanuel's Trade Secrets Chair Jumps to Skadden**

Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP has snagged the head of Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP's trade secrets practice group to join the firm's Palo Alto, California, office.

John "Jay" Neukom will serve as a partner for Skadden's intellectual property litigation team, specializing in trade secrets and patent cases. In his 13 years of practice, his clients have included Google Inc., Cisco Systems Inc., AT&T Inc., The Bank of New York Mellon Corp. and Koninklijke Philips NV.

Neukom's experience representing a range of tech companies in state and federal court, and before arbitration panels, made him an attractive candidate, Skadden IP



John "Jay" Neukom

group head Anthony Sammi said in a Feb. 8 statement accompanying the announcement.

"Jay is an exceptionally well-rounded litigator with deep experience in technology areas such as semiconductors, telecommunications, network security, software and hardware," Sammi said. "He is an ideal addition to our practice and we look forward to working with him."

Neukom worked on a number of high-profile cases during his time at Quinn Emanuel, including Waymo's trade secrets dispute with Uber Technologies Inc., and Cisco's \$335 million copyright and patent infringement suit against Arista over ethernet.

### **Ropes & Gray Lands New Life Sciences IP Practice Chair**

Ropes & Gray LLP has a new chair of its life sciences intellectual property practice in New York after bringing on board Filko Prugo, who previously helped launch, and led, O'Melveny & Myers LLP's Hatch-Waxman and Biologics Price Competition and Innovation Act practice.

The litigator has spent 20 years representing top pharmaceutical companies in IP litigation before federal district and appellate courts, as well as the Patent Trial and Appeal Board. He's led the team on at least 20 trials, Ropes & Gray said.



Filko Prugo

His successes include a win for Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corp., which had alleged that Watson Laboratories Inc. infringed a patent when filing an abbreviated new drug application to make a generic of Novartis' dementia treatment Exelon; getting Sandoz Inc. to hold off a generic version of AstraZeneca PLC's breast cancer drug Faslodex; and winning inter partes reviews for AstraZeneca.

"When the opportunity to join Ropes & Gray in a leadership position presented itself, it seemed like a natural next step," Prugo said in a statement. "My extensive chemistry and biotech patent litigation experience nicely complements the firm's strong focus on the life sciences industry."

### **Loeb & Loeb Boosts Life Sciences Practice With 3 Hires**

Loeb & Loeb LLP recently landed a trio of new attorneys to its life sciences practice, including senior counsel Ryan N. Hagglund, who is a patent litigator focused in the pharma and biotech industries.

He works largely on Hatch-Waxman and biotech litigation, but has also advised on patent licensing, copyright, trade secrets and transactions, the firm said. He's joining from Milbank Tweed Hadley & McCloy LLP, where recently he was on a team that won and defended a \$455 million arbitral award for Bayer CropScience NV over infringement of a gene for herbicide resistance.



Eve Costopoulos, Ryan N. Hagglund and Kiaema R. Reid

Loeb & Loeb also brought on board of counsel Eve Costopoulos and associate director of regulatory Kiaema R. Reid.

Costopoulos is coming in with a wealth of in-house experience, including serving as senior vice president, general counsel and chief compliance officer of Turing Pharmaceuticals AG and vice president of compliance at both Eisai and Schering-Plough Corp., dating back to 1988. She mainly advises life sciences companies on regulatory, compliance and ethics issues, Loeb & Loeb said.

Reid is coming from Allergan, where she was senior manager of marketing operations. At Loeb & Loeb, she'll be advising life sciences companies on compliance issues tied to both marketing and commercial interactions with health care professionals, the firm said.

--Additional reporting by Bonnie Eslinger, Tiffany Hu, Cara Bayles, Kelly Knaub and Dani Kass. Editing by Aaron Pelc.