

IP Hires: Crowell & Moring, Latham, McDermott, Orrick

By **Dani Kass**

Law360 (October 9, 2020, 6:40 PM EDT) -- Crowell & Moring, Latham, McDermott and Orrick are the latest firms to expand their intellectual property offerings, while Desmarais lost a partner who formed a new Patent Trial and Appeal Board-focused boutique. Here are the details on these IP hires.

Crowell & Moring

Crowell & Moring LLP has added a former Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP attorney to co-lead its International Trade Commission practice in Washington, D.C.

Josh Pond, who has more than 15 years of experience helping companies protect their patents from infringement by foreign and domestic competitors, told Law360 that over the course of his career the number of patent infringement complaints that are filed with the ITC has grown, requiring attorneys and law firms to have expertise in the area.

Crowell & Moring Chair Philip Inglima said in a statement that "with the growing number of Section 337 actions, clients will benefit from [Pond's] demonstrated experience and creativity as lead counsel across a variety of industry sectors in ITC investigations and IP litigation generally."

Latham

Latham & Watkins LLP has brought on a former Mayer Brown LLP litigator who's experienced in representing technology giants in high-stakes litigation involving cutting-edge copyright issues.

Allison Stillman has joined Latham's connectivity privacy and information practice in New York. She has advised a number of technology companies in high-profile litigation and regulatory matters, and helped secure court approval of a \$43 million settlement on behalf of Spotify in a suit brought by songwriters.

Stillman said in a statement that she's honored to be joining Latham's "dynamic and expanding team," which she said is taking on the most influential copyright disputes in the digital media frontier.

McDermott

McDermott Will & Emery LLP has bolstered its Atlanta presence with an experienced intellectual property litigator from Alston & Bird LLP.

Shane Nichols joined McDermott as a partner, after more than eight years at Alston & Bird and 11 at King & Spalding LLP. He litigates patent and trade secret cases, generally focusing on the electrical and electronics fields.

"I'm excited to join McDermott and help expand the firm's IP presence in Atlanta," Nichols said in a statement. "In the increasingly competitive IP landscape, it is vital for firms to help clients seamlessly navigate the unexpected, and McDermott is best in the business at that. I look forward to working with this incredibly talented team."

McNish

Desmarais LLP's former Patent Trial and Appeal Board practice head has ventured out on his own, opening a cloud-based firm in New York City.

Kevin McNish has formed McNish PLLC, where he is the sole attorney. McNish said the new firm was inspired by his desire to have more control over practice growth.

"I wanted more control over how I develop my practice, and launching my own firm was the best way to accomplish that," he told Law360.

Orrick

Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP has grown its technology transactions team with the addition of an intellectual property and data privacy partner with international experience from Kirkland & Ellis LLP.

Sarah Schaedler joined Orrick in San Francisco, where she'll be focusing on the intellectual property and data privacy aspects of complex corporate transactions, such as mergers and acquisitions, in which software and technology are key assets.

"Orrick has a fabulous portfolio of companies doing transactions in this space, and I am excited to roll up my sleeves and help those companies execute," Schaedler said.

--Additional reporting by Adam Lidgett, Dorothy Atkins, Hannah Albarazi and Sarah Martinson. Editing by Jack Karp.