

## **IP Hires: Husch Blackwell, Gibson Dunn, Irell & Manella**

By **Tiffany Hu**

*Law360 (April 22, 2022, 12:40 PM EDT)* -- Husch Blackwell has brought on an intellectual property attorney who previously served as chief of staff to former U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Director Andrei Iancu, and a retired Federal Circuit judge has joined Irell & Manella LLP's office in Washington, D.C.

Here are the details on these and other notable hires.

### **Husch Blackwell**

Husch Blackwell has hired Brendan McCommas, a former chief of staff for Iancu, as senior counsel in its intellectual property practice and its technology, manufacturing and transportation practice group in Washington, the firm announced Friday.

Most recently, McCommas was of counsel with Cincinnati-based law firm Dinsmore & Shohl LLP, where he had worked as of counsel in its intellectual property department since May 2021.

McCommas brings expertise in intellectual property disputes dealing with patents, trademarks, copyrights, licensing and trade secrets and works with a wide range of clients, from startups to large multinational corporations, the firm said. McCommas has experience at every level of intellectual property litigation, including in federal district court and before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board and the International Trade Commission.

### **Patterson + Sheridan**

Intellectual property firm Patterson + Sheridan LLP has rehired a former counsel as industrial services assistant general counsel to its Houston office.

Tim Curington, who since 2019 had served as assistant general counsel and chief patent counsel to industrial machinery manufacturing company Team Industrial Services, has rejoined Patterson + Sheridan, focusing on technology and intellectual property.

"We are so thrilled to have Tim return back to the firm," managing partner B. Todd Patterson told Law360. "Through his vast industry experience, Tim has deep insight into intellectual property licensing and agreements, and we are excited for him to bring his experience to the firm's growing contract and life cycle management practice."

## **Gibson Dunn**

Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP has expanded its intellectual property group by adding a specialist in patent litigation with more than 15 years of experience in the life sciences, pharmaceutical and biotechnology sectors.

**Charlotte Jacobsen** has joined Gibson Dunn's New York office after just under four years at Ropes & Gray LLP, where she helped establish and lead the firm's life sciences patent litigation practice. Jacobsen has litigated more than 70 cases, including 45 Hatch-Waxman Act disputes for several global pharmaceutical companies. Gibson Dunn announced the move on April 11.

In a statement, Jacobsen said she was happy with the decision to move to her new firm.

"I'm excited to join the patent litigation group at Gibson Dunn," she said. "The firm's intellectual property practice group is one of the very best in the country, representing the leading biopharma clients in high-stakes patent litigation."

## **Crowell & Moring**

Crowell & Moring LLP announced Thursday that it is adding to its Chicago bench, which opened last year, with a partner from Loeb & Loeb LLP focused on commercial litigation and consumer class action defense.

Jason P. Stiehl, who joins the technology and brand protection practice, adds to a Windy City office launched in July 2021 by a merger with local IP firm Brinks Gilson & Lione. Stiehl has a track record in brand protection, an area Crowell & Moring has plans for, but the bulk of his experience is in class action, trade secrets, corporate espionage and commercial litigation, according to the firm.

"Jason is a respected litigator whose brand protection and false advertising experience will be key as we continue to expand our brand protection presence nationwide," Howard Michael, co-chair of Crowell & Moring's technology and brand protection group, said in a statement. "In addition, his knowledge of various technology and innovation sectors aligns well with the deep IP capabilities in our Chicago office and will be valuable to clients who are navigating complex brand protection matters."

Stiehl joins Crowell & Moring from Loeb & Loeb, where he was a partner for four years. Prior to that, he was a partner at Akerman LLP from 2016 to 2018 after spending 10 years at Seyfarth Shaw LLP.

## **Irell & Manella**

Former Federal Circuit Judge Kathleen O'Malley is joining Irell & Manella LLP's Washington, D.C., office, where she will work alongside former USPTO director Iancu on intellectual property policy and other issues, the firm announced Thursday.

Judge O'Malley, who retired from the appeals court last month after 27 years as a federal judge, will focus on IP, alternative dispute resolution and a broad range of other subjects when she joins the firm on April 27 as of counsel, Irell said in a statement.

"We couldn't be more excited to welcome Judge O'Malley to the firm," said Jonathan Kagan, a member of Irell's executive committee. "Her background as both an appellate and district court judge makes her

a tremendously valuable asset to the firm's clients, not just in the IP arena but across multiple areas of litigation, dispute resolution, and IP policy. Judge O'Malley will also help us expand our D.C. presence."

Judge O'Malley said in the statement that she is "thrilled to have the opportunity to work with the excellent team of lawyers at Irell."

### **International Trade Commission**

An administrative patent judge at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office will make his move in the coming weeks to the U.S. International Trade Commission as an administrative law judge, marking the first time an African American will hold the position at the ITC.

A spokesperson for the ITC confirmed to Law360 on Thursday that Bryan F. Moore will be the first African American ALJ on the commission in history when he starts in May, but declined to comment further.

Moore did not immediately respond to a request for comment after normal business hours on Thursday, nor did the USPTO.

--Additional reporting by Hailey Konnath, Rachel Rippetoe, Donald Morrison, Emily Lever, Ryan Davis and Adam Lidgett. Editing by Alyssa Miller.