

THE AM LAW LITIGATION DAILY

Litigation Leaders: Cooley's Ian Shapiro on the Benefits of Litigating on Behalf of Entrepreneurs and Scientists

By Ross Todd

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Welcome to another edition of our Litigation Leaders series, featuring the litigation practice leaders at some of the biggest and most innovative law firms in the country—and the world.

*Meet **Ian Shapiro**, the chair of the global litigation practice at **Cooley**, who also serves as partner in charge of the firm's New York office. He previously served as vice chair of Cooley's litigation practice under **Michael Attanasio**, who chaired the practice for a dozen years until Shapiro succeeded him in the position earlier this year.*

Lit Daily: Tell us a little about yourself—perhaps even a thing or two your partners would be surprised to learn about you.

I started my career in city government, working for the Mayor's office, City Council and eventually NYC Parks. When I left for law school, I thought I would return to government and politics. But I realized that life was more expensive than I had imagined, and I became a lawyer in private practice. I loved

my time in city government, and much of my thinking about management and leadership at the law firm is based on that experience.

I started my legal career at **Cravath**

and soon lateraled to **Kronish Lieb**, which was an only-in-New York firm. I liked that about the firm, its focus on NYC, but within two years, we became Cooley's New York office. At the time, I was 35 years old, I had never traveled to California, and I had only the vaguest understanding of Silicon Valley. But I soon came to appreciate the firm's role in the early days of Silicon Valley and how my partners in Northern California, as the source of the modern economy, regarded their home as the center of the universe, just as much as New Yorkers like to do. I also learned how satisfying it is to litigate on behalf of entrepreneurs



Ian Shapiro of Cooley

Courtesy photo

and scientists and have never considered practicing anywhere else.

Today, I am also the partner in charge of the New York office, and one of my favorite parts of the role is to do everything I can to transform our café into the office's town square, including by serving the best food in Big Law.

You were partner-in-charge of the firm's New York office before taking on the role of chair of the firm's global litigation practice. What does it mean for a firm like Cooley that's so synonymous with tech to have its litigation chair based in New York?

It reflects the evolution of our litigation practice on the East Coast. When Cooley came to New York in 2006, the East Coast litigation practice largely consisted of the litigation partners in New York who were here at the beginning, including **Alan Levine**, **Bill Schwartz** and **Celia Barenholtz**. Even by 2018, the firm still had far more litigators in California. But today, the firm has 225 litigators on the East Coast, which is roughly the same as California.

You spent roughly a year as deputy chair under longtime chair Mike Attanasio, who was the first person we featured in this series. What did you pick up about the role while deputy chair?

I have been working alongside Mike since 2018 and loved every minute of it. He had the ambition to expand the firm's practice on the East Coast and to believe that we could be one of the country's elite practices. I learned a ton from Mike, but what I will highlight here was Mike's limitless capacity to address the department's business from early in the morning until late at night, seven days

per week, ensuring that every question was answered, every issue was resolved, every success acknowledged and that no one ever interfered with allowing the rest of the partnership to focus on their advocacy. Our department would not be on the precipice of realizing its ambitions without Mike's fierce and relentless leadership.

In what three areas of litigation do you have the deepest bench? (I know it's hard, but please name just three.)

Cooley has extremely deep benches for the representation of tech companies in a broad range of commercial litigation. For example, we are currently representing three of the leading generative AI companies in existential challenges to their products. We also have a deep bench for the representation of tech and life science companies in tech litigation. And we have one of the largest and most experienced securities litigation practices in the country, originally on the West Coast, but increasingly on the East Coast as well.

How big is the firm's litigation team and where are most of your litigators concentrated geographically?

The litigation department has more than 450 lawyers. 400 of them are in the U.S. and 50 in Europe. As I described, the litigators in the U.S. are split evenly between the West Coast and the East Coast. Our largest concentrations of litigators are in Northern California (San Francisco and Palo Alto), New York and Washington, D.C.

What do you see as hallmarks of Cooley litigators? What makes you different?

The hallmarks of Cooley's litigators include exceptional work ethic, personal decency

and a commitment to succeeding together. In addition, we have also long emphasized courtroom advocacy, in the lawyers we promote and recruit, and in our commitment to ensure our associates stand-up in court early and often in their careers. But what makes us different is the decades of experience our lawyers have counseling and representing the most disruptive and innovative companies in the world. No department has as many lawyers capable of mastering the most complex technology or representing companies whose technology and business model innovation invite novel and wholly unresolved legal challenges.

What were two or three of the firm's biggest in-court wins in the past year, and can you cite tactics that exemplify your firm's approach to success?

The firm's biggest in-court wins this year include the representation of **Jenner & Block** in the D.C. District Court challenging the President's Executive Order targeting Jenner. The firm succeeded in obtaining a temporary restraining order and then summary judgment permanently enjoining the President's Executive Order. I would also include the firm's representation of Meta in the Northern District of California in a putative class action lawsuit challenging Meta's generative AI. The firm succeeded in obtaining summary judgment on whether Meta's use of copyrighted material

to train its AI model was fair use. Finally, on behalf of our client Liquidia, Cooley defeated Liquidia's rival United Therapeutics' motion for a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction on a claim for patent infringement in the Middle District of North Carolina seeking to prevent Liquidia's life-saving drug YUTREPIA from entering the market.

It is difficult to cite the specific tactics our teams deployed in each of these cases. But what is true in all of them is that they consist of partners and associates from multiple practice groups and offices who collaborate selflessly to protect our clients' interests.

What does the firm's coming trial calendar look like?

We are looking forward to two important trials in the next 30 days. First, next week, we start trial for Google in defense of a putative class action relating to Google's privacy controls. The team is led by our new partners **Ben Hur, Simona Agnolucci, Eduardo Santacana** and **Jonathan Patchen**, alongside Mike Attanasio. Then, on September 8, we start trial for Netgear, a pioneering developer of network hardware, in the District of Delaware on a patent infringement claim against TrackThings. That team is led by **Reuben Chen, Eamonn Gardner** and **Allie Leeper**. We have many more trials scheduled to begin in the fall, but will have to see whether they go.