

Cooley Snags Ex-Latham Securities Head In Silicon Valley

By **Kat Greene**

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Cooley LLP said Monday it hired the former co-chair of Latham & Watkins LLP's securities litigation and professional liability practice, bolstering the firm's class actions, derivative litigation and U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission enforcement proceedings capabilities in Silicon Valley.

Patrick Gibbs has joined Cooley as a partner in the firm's Palo Alto office, bringing his experience representing public and closely held companies, venture capital and private equity firms, and investment banks, and covering industries including technology, semiconductor, biotechnology, life sciences and medical devices, the firm said.



Patrick Gibbs

Gibbs has also handled consumer class actions, antitrust matters and other types of complex business litigation, as well as representing clients in SEC investigations and internal corporate investigations.

"Patrick is widely considered to be one of the finest securities litigators in the country," Michael Attanasio, head of Cooley's global litigation department, said in a statement Monday. "Patrick's exemplary track record of success will add to Cooley's deep litigation bench and complement the culture of winning advocacy that makes us the first choice for leading companies, directors and officers in Silicon Valley and beyond."

Gibbs' client list has included U.S. Airways Group, Oracle Corp., Advanced Micro Devices Inc., and others, according to a since-deleted profile on former firm's website.

For example, he represented Oracle and three of its top executives in a securities class action that followed a missed earnings forecast in 2001. The shareholders sought damages of more than \$3 billion, but Gibbs obtained summary judgment for his clients on the eve of trial. That decision was later affirmed on appeal by the Ninth Circuit, according to his former firm's profile.

Cooley is one of the most active securities defense firms in the nation, and it has defended more pharmaceutical companies in securities class actions filed over the past five years than any other law firm, according to data provided by the firm.

"Cooley's growth, momentum and reputation are on an extraordinary trajectory," Gibbs said in a

statement. “The firm is home to an impressive group of trial lawyers, and I look forward to helping to grow what is already one of the preeminent securities litigation groups in the U.S.”

Gibbs joins fellow recent hire Steven Tonsfeldt, the former head of O’Melveny & Myers LLP’s global mergers and acquisitions and private equity practice who has guided high-profile transactions in technology and other sectors.

Tonsfeldt joined Cooley as a partner after spending about seven years with O’Melveny. A veteran Silicon Valley lawyer with experience advising on complex transactions, including hostile takeovers and cross-border M&A, Tonsfeldt joined Cooley at the beginning of the year.

--Editing by Emily Kokoll.

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