

Cooley Snags ITC Atty For IP Group Near DC

By Erin Coe

Law360, New York (March 14, 2011, 6:02 PM ET) -- Cooley LLP announced Monday the hire of a senior investigative attorney at the U.S. International Trade Commission for the firm's intellectual property team in the Washington area.

Stephen R. Smith has joined Cooley's Reston, Va., office as a partner after specializing in Section 337 proceedings at the ITC. He acted as lead government counsel in major patent infringement trials involving global electronics, semiconductor makers and billions of dollars in commerce.

"Changes in the litigation landscape have increased the importance of ITC proceedings, and I look forward to joining the Cooley IP team and bringing additional depth to the ITC practice," Smith said.

Before arriving at the ITC, Smith worked as a partner at Powell Goldstein LLP — which has since merged into Bryan Cave LLP — where he concentrated on IP and commercial litigation.

He also served as a clerk earlier in his career for Justice Florence K. Murray of the Rhode Island Supreme Court and for Judge Robert W. Lovegreen of the U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island.

Smith earned his bachelor's degree from Villanova University and his law degree from George Washington University.

"We are very excited to welcome Steve to Cooley and to our strong team of IP lawyers," said Frank Pietrantonio, head of Cooley's IP practice. "With his ITC and broad litigation experience, Steve will be a valuable addition to our national IP litigation team."

Smith's arrival comes after Cooley added Ronald S. Lemieux, formerly of Paul Hastings Janofsky & Walker LLP, as a partner in its IP group in Palo Alto, Calif., office in July.

Lemieux has represented leading technology, life sciences and financial services companies in patent, trademark, trade dress and unfair competition suits in state and federal courts and in domestic and international arbitration, according to the firm.

Cooley's IP team works with clients on an array of matters, such as structuring sophisticated IP-based deals, developing patent strategies, selecting and clearing trademarks, and drafting online license and click-through agreements.

Its IP litigation group centers on formulating legal strategies in high-stake technology disputes over patents, copyrights, trademarks, false advertising, licensing and trade secrets.

The firm has 650 attorneys and represents clients in the technology, life sciences, venture capital, clean energy, real estate and retail sectors.

It has offices in Palo Alto; New York; San Diego; San Francisco; Reston; Broomfield, Colo.; Washington; Boston; and Seattle.

--Editing by Chris Giganti.

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