



# MOVERS & SHAKERS



## HEIDI ERLACHER

Cooley

Cooley's has named Heidi Erlacher partner in charge of its Boston office. Erlacher succeeds Al Browne, one of the office's founding partners, who will continue his full-time work in M&A, private equity and venture capital.

Cooley's Boston

office opened in 2007 with a team of 10 partners; since then it has expanded to a team of more than 70 lawyers. Erlacher is a member of Cooley's 25+ person Boston-based patent counseling and prosecution and intellectual property practices, ranking as one of the top 25 largest IP practices in Boston by the *Boston Business Journal*. Cooley is IP counsel to 2,000+ companies worldwide, ranging from trailblazing startups to multi-billion dollar industry leaders and was recently honored as a finalist for *The American Lawyer's* Intellectual Property Litigation Department of the Year.

Erlacher holds a PhD in organic chemistry and has more than 15 years of experience safeguarding intellectual property and has specialized experience in the field of small molecule compositions. She works in the area of pharmaceuticals, chemistry and biotechnology, including the fields of organic and organometallic chemistry, biochemistry and nucleic acids. Erlacher counsels clients worldwide in developing and implementing patent strategies and in the prosecution and procurement of patents, portfolio management and IP due diligence. She also advises clients on transactional work, including financing events such as investments, licensing, mergers and acquisitions.



## DEBRA GATISON

HATTER

Strasburger & Price  
LLP

Strasburger & Price LLP hired Debra Gatison Hatter as a partner. Hatter, who will work in Strasburger's Houston office, focuses her practice on corporate transactions, including mergers and acquisitions,

joint ventures, strategic partnerships, debt and equity, financings, corporate governance, structuring and general business matters.

Hatter represents private equity funds, public companies and privately held businesses in a broad array of industries, including energy, technology, telecommunications, waste management, retail and industrial services, in both domestic and international transactions. Her experience includes representing investors and sellers of businesses with a significant focus on technology assets and organizing joint ventures and other strategic partnering arrangements, including the governance aspects of these transactions. She also counsels clients on pre-merger regulatory compliance and filings under the competition laws (HSR Act) in U.S.-based and cross-border transactions.

Hatter is admitted to practice in Texas, Pennsylvania, the District of Columbia and Maryland and is a member of the National and American Bar Associations. She was co-founder and former chair of the Mergers and Acquisitions Section of the Houston Bar Association. Hatter belongs to the Women's Energy Network Houston, is currently a director of Julia F. Thompson Inc., and previously served as a director of the Houston Area Urban League. She received her JD from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 1994, where she was editor of the *University of Pennsylvania Law Review*. She holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Pennsylvania.



**AMIT KUMAR**

Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton  
 Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton hired Amit Kumar, the former vice president of legal affairs for TaylorMade-Adidas Golf Company. Kumar has joined the firm's San Diego office as counsel in the firm's Mergers & Acquisitions and Securities Practice with a focus on representing companies in the consumer products industry.

Kumar leverages his unique legal, corporate and business experience to advise large and small companies—in particular consumer product brands—on matters relating to technology transactions, mergers, strategic alliances, manufacturing, distribution and advertising.

Earlier in his career, Kumar worked in the Los Angeles offices of two major international law firms, where he drafted and negotiated stock and asset purchase agreements, secured and unsecured credit facilities, and technology licenses.

Kumar obtained his JD from Columbia University School of Law where he was a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar. He received his AB in rhetoric, with a minor in philosophy, from the University of California, Berkeley.



**JOYCELYN STEVENSON**

Littler & Nashville Bar Association President

Joycelyn Stevenson, a shareholder in the Nashville office of Littler, was named the 2016 president of the Nashville Bar Association's board of directors and will serve a one-year term. Stevenson is the first African-American woman to lead the Nashville Bar Association, which is comprised of more than 2,500 members.

NBA leadership positions are elected by a majority of the current board members, with individual merits and NBA contributions considered in the voting process. An active member since 2001, Stevenson has been involved in a number of leadership capacities within the organization, most recently serving as president elect. In addition to her involvement in the NBA, Stevenson has held positions with other organizations, such as president of the Lawyers' Association for Women in Nashville and president of the Council on Aging of Greater Nashville.

With her successful practice focusing on employment and business immigration law, including representation of the firm's corporate clients on workplace issues, Stevenson has consistently been recognized as a leader in the legal community. She is the 2015 winner of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce and Young Professionals Nashville Emerging Leaders Award in the Legal Services category. She was selected as one of Mid-South Super Lawyers Rising Stars in 2014 and 2015 and as a *Nashville Business Journal* Best of the Bar honoree in 2013–2015, having previously been included in its "40 Under 40" listing in 2011. In 2013, Stevenson also received the Nashville Athena Young Professionals Award. Stevenson earned her JD from Vanderbilt University Law School and her BA from Howard University.