

Health Hires: Cooley, Lowenstein, Foley Grow Life Sci Teams

By **Dani Kass**

Law360, New York (July 29, 2016, 7:24 PM ET) -- Cooley LLP has added two partners and ten patent agents and associates from Morrison & Foerster LLP to boost its life sciences patent practice group, Lowenstein Sandler LLP has snagged a former Novo Nordisk general counsel to lead its U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulatory group and a former Reed Smith LLP litigator has joined Foley & Lardner LLP as a partner.

IP Team From MoFo Joins Cooley



Mika Reiner Mayer



Walter Wu

Cooley has added 12 attorneys and patent agents from MoFo in its Palo Alto office, creating the largest life sciences patent practice group in the country, the firm said.

The team, led by partners Mika Reiner Mayer and Walter Wu, includes two medical doctors, three Ph.D chemists, three bioengineers with advanced degrees, two mechanical engineers, one chemical engineers and one Ph.D neuroscientist, Cooley said. Cathy Liang, Ann Yang, Lisa Amii, Kimberly Bolin, Connie Tong and Rob Wu are joining as patent agents, and Joanna Liebes, Amy Motomura, Candice Hsu and Mani Roy as associates.

“Their experience is perfectly aligned with Cooley’s already dominant life sciences patent counseling and prosecution practice, and their technical breadth enables them to handle complex patent matters covering the full gamut of life sciences technologies,” the firm said

Mayer said she and Wu have worked for a wide variety of clients, ranging from representing Novartis AG’s Alcon in an agreement with Google Inc. to in-license a contact lens that’s able to detect glucose

levels to startups straight out of Stanford University, where they both teach in the biodesign program.

“We also do a lot of small molecule work and biotech work and diagnostic work,” Mayer said. “There are interesting plays in each one of those areas. Some people may not think a new small molecule is that sexy, but when it’s saving someone's life or preventing something nasty, it is sexy.”

Wu, who said his interests lie in the intersection of medicine, technology and law, said their work also extends to more personalized medicine for consumers, whether that's wearable activity trackers or better diagnostic tests.

Mayer earned her law degree from Boston University School of Law. Wu earned his law degree from UCLA School of Law and his medical degree from the University of California, Davis School of Medicine.

Lowenstein Taps Former Novo Nordisk GC to Lead FDA Practice

Lowenstein has added James Shehan, former general counsel of Novo Nordisk and corporate counsel at Pfizer Inc., to lead its FDA regulatory practice in New York and serve as senior counsel in its life sciences practice.

Shehan was most recently of counsel at Washington, D.C.-based FDA regulatory law boutique Hyman Phelps & McNamara, but his earlier work involved several corporate counsel stints and a position in the FDA commissioner’s office. He said after reviewing several firms with openings in New York, he was drawn to Lowenstein, which has a strong life sciences group but a gap in FDA regulatory work.

“It’s a dynamic, entrepreneurial place that has nice, steady growth, and it seems really to live what other people talk about in terms of being focused on putting clients first and providing good service to clients,” Shehan said.

His work largely involves helping clients develop new products and getting those approved, but also extends to compliance matters, internal investigations, transactions, mergers and acquisitions and licensing. Shehan is well-versed in drugs, biologics, medical devices, cosmetics, food, dietary supplements and biosimilars, the firm said.

During his nearly 20 years at Novo Nordisk, the company grew to be a leader in diabetes products, with sales jumping from \$100 million to \$5.5 billion, the firm said. The legal, compliance and government affairs staff featured more than 100 personnel with a \$30 million budget, Lowenstein said.

He earned his law degree from Georgetown University Law Center and his bachelor's degree in biology from Columbia University.

Foley & Lardner Gets Litigation Partner in Washington, D.C.

After 21 years at Reed Smith, Andrew Hurst has joined Foley & Lardner in Washington, D.C., as a partner in its business litigation and dispute resolution practice, largely representing clients in life sciences, health care and government contracting.

After earning his degree at Georgetown University Law Center, Hurst spent his entire career at Reed Smith, where he started as a summer associate. He joined the firm as a litigator, spending the first half of his time there working largely with providers before transitioning more to life sciences.

Hurst said he was drawn to Foley for its collegial, collaborative, “Midwestern” feel, and that he’s excited to be part of the firm’s expanding life sciences practice.

“Health care and life sciences are booming industries and very active, creative. People are trying new things. It’s very challenging to work in that industry,” he said. “I’m pretty excited for Foley because they’ve got a really up-and-coming life sciences practice. It’s dynamic, it’s not stagnant. I think there’s going to be good things to come here. They’ve always had a great health care group here, but now they’re really creating a great life sciences practice too. It’s a very neat place to be.”

Hurst will be working with life sciences companies, health care providers, government contractors and other corporations through civil fraud litigation, especially False Claims Act cases, criminal investigations, government prosecutions, and claims including Medicare and Medicaid fraud, campaign finance, economic espionage and computer crimes, Foley said.

While he often works with large clients, Hurst said he especially enjoys helping out smaller clients.

“You really feel like you have a stake in it there and that you’re helping someone or something get through something,” Hurst said. “I’ve had some of the most rewarding moments as a lawyer working with a very small client, or somebody who just needed something urgently or their company would go under or they’d have to mortgage their house. I’ve always made an effort, no matter how big a case is or how big clients I have, I always make sure to work with small clients I’ve had for a long time.”

--Editing by Mark Lebetkin.