

Health Hires: Wilson Sonsini Gets Bump In M&A, Cooley In IP

By **Dani Kass**

Law360, New York (May 6, 2016, 8:17 PM ET) -- Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati PC recently snagged a Ropes & Gray LLP partner for its transactions team, Cooley LLP lured a Venner Shipley LLP partner to its U.K. patent practice and Boston's Rubin and Rudman LLP brought on lawyers from Blank Rome LLP and Sterne Kessler Goldstein & Fox to head its intellectual property practice in D.C.

Wilson Sonsini Adds Transactions Partner From Ropes & Gray

Former Wilson Sonsini associate Lowell Segal is rejoining the firm as a transactions partner in Palo Alto, California, after an eight-year stint at Ropes & Gray. Segal works largely with biopharmaceutical, biotech and medical device clients in transactional matters, such as divestitures, asset purchases and spinouts.

He has also worked with venture capital firms investing in life sciences, renewable energy and e-commerce, Wilson Sonsini said.

The Harvard Law School grad worked as an associate at Wilson Sonsini from 2000 through 2008 in the corporate practice before moving to the technology transactions practice, the firm said.

"With the recent surge in financings and commercial transactions involving life sciences companies, there is increasing client demand for expertise in collaborations, licensing and other transactions," managing partner Doug Clark said in a statement. "Lowell's prior experience and familiarity with the firm and our client base makes him a valuable resource for life sciences companies, entrepreneurs and investors."

Cooley Expands London Office With Patent Partner



Colm Murphy

Less than a year after Cooley launched its U.K. patent practice, the firm is adding Colm Murphy, an attorney from Venner Shipley LLP. As a partner, he will help draft and prosecute patents, work on European Patent Office oppositions and appeals and freedom-to-operate clearances, the firm said. He has also worked on portfolio and risk assessment strategies and intellectual property monetization.

"I've known of Cooley's market-leading U.S. life sciences patent capabilities for many years, and the firm is gaining the same reputation in the U.K.," Murphy said in a statement. "I'm looking forward to enhancing Cooley's international patent practice and contributing to its growth in London."

Murphy has a degree in IP litigation from Nottingham Law School and a master's degree in IP law from Queen Mary University of London.

Cooley opened its London office in January 2015 and added the patent practice in August 2015 with three top Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo PC patent prosecutors, a move that caused Mintz Levin to **close its own patent practice** in the city.

"Colm's arrival strengthens our U.K. patent capabilities and our comprehensive global life sciences practice," said Justin Stock, Cooley's managing partner in the U.K. "He has a proven track record of success representing clients in high-profile oppositions before the European Patent Office and providing proactive and commercial solutions in complex matters."

Rubin and Rudman Names IP Practice Co-Chairs

At the end of April, Rubin and Rudman added two partners to co-chair its intellectual property practice in Washington, D.C.: Judith U. Kim, formerly of Sterne Kessler, and Gabriela I. Coman, formerly of Blank Rome.

Kim works with clients in the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, immunology, biofuels, food products and nutraceuticals fields to manage patent portfolios, handle inter partes disputes and deal with licensing matters. Before turning to law, she was a scientist researching microbial and mammalian biology and she has co-published 11 papers based on that research. She also teaches at South Korea's Sogang University Law School.

Coman's focuses include medical, biotechnology, pharmaceutical and chemical patents, but she also works with semiconductors and designs. Among her clients are universities, pharmaceutical and biomedical companies, health care providers and independent investors, the firm said. She has filed and prosecuted patents both in the U.S. and abroad.

Kim attended the University of Maryland's Francis King Carey School of Law and Coman attended Brooklyn Law School.

--Editing by Mark Lebetkin.