

Mintz Levin Nixes London Patent Practice After Cooley Raid

By **Lisa Ryan**

Law360, New York (August 11, 2015, 7:37 PM ET) -- After Cooley LLP poached three top Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo PC patent prosecutors in London, Mintz Levin has opted to shut down its European patent prosecution practice in the city, according to reports.

Cooley said in an Aug. 3 statement that it snagged three Mintz Levin patent attorneys — David Wraige, Jacqueline Ireland and Daniel Sellwood — to help launch its U.K. patent practice. The additions came more than a year after former Mintz Levin IP Chairman Ivor Elrifi, partner Heidi Erlacher and more left the firm in April 2014 to join Cooley's New York and Boston offices.

Legal Business reported that Mintz Levin is in the process of slowing down operations in its London office. The firm told the publication that it will no longer conduct European patent prosecution from the London outpost.

"The London office will continue to offer corporate services, and we will continue to provide European patent prosecution through our correspondent firms, including those our former London colleagues have joined," the firm said in a statement to Legal Business.

Mintz Levin also recently lost its London managing partner Julian Crump, who left to establish his own pharmaceuticals firm, according to Legal Business.

Representatives for Mintz Levin didn't respond to Tuesday requests for comment.

California-headquartered Cooley opened its London outpost in January after luring away talent from Morrison & Foerster LLP and Edwards Wildman Palmer LLP to round out its initial 50-attorney staff in the city.

At the time of its launch, the firm had signed contracts with five MoFo corporate and technology partners, as well as Edwards Wildman partners who opted not to stick with the firm after it merged with Locke Lord LLP.

In March, the firm announced that it had bolstered its corporate finance group in London with a trio of partners, including a leading mergers and acquisitions and private equity pro from Olswang LLP and a pair of life sciences and intellectual property aces from Reed Smith LLP.

Cooley said in the Aug. 3 statement that Wraige, Ireland and Sellwood have experience in the life

sciences patent prosecution realm.

Wraige's focus is on mechanical engineering, electronics and software technologies, medical devices and imagine, relational databases and semiconductor processing. Ireland's expertise spans a wide variety of biochemistry and molecular genetic matters, and Sellwood's practice is centered on drug delivery solutions, immunotherapeutics and biopharmaceuticals, according to the statement.

--Additional reporting by Linda Chiem. Editing by Christine Chun.

All Content © 2003-2015, Portfolio Media, Inc.