

Latham & Watkins Nets Wilson Sonsini IP Group

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Law360, New York (April 6, 2011) -- Latham & Watkins LLP said Wednesday it has hauled in a team of six intellectual property litigators from Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati PC to round out the firm's IP practice in its California offices.

Ron E. Shulman, Michael A. Ladra, Roger J. Chin, Richard G. Frenkel, Julie M. Holloway and Terry Kearney have agreed to join the firm as partners. Chin and Holloway will be working out of Latham's San Francisco office, while the other attorneys will be located in the firm's Menlo Park, Calif., office.

While at Wilson Sonsini, the group focused on advising top information technology, pharmaceutical and semiconductor companies in complex cases at trial.

Shulman said the move presented an opportunity for the team to expand into new sectors beyond the high-tech arena.

"Latham is active in a broader spectrum of sectors, and we hope to expand into areas that had not been possible before," he said.

The team helped secure summary judgment for Affymetrix Inc. in a patent infringement case brought by Illumina Inc. over DNA microarrays in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin, which is now on appeal. The attorneys have also handled IP cases for Synopsys Inc. and AU Optronics Corp.

"We were particularly attracted by the global platform and deep IP litigation resources available at Latham & Watkins to support and grow our practices," Shulman said. "We have successfully worked together as a group for many years, and we all are confident that joining Latham will advance our practices and capabilities."

The group will enhance Latham's patent litigation capabilities, especially in the San Francisco Bay Area, and will complement the firm's corporate practice and emerging companies practice in which IP issues are critical, according to the firm.

"Latham is committed to advancing a high-end patent litigation practice," James Lynch, vice chair of Latham's global litigation department, said. "The group brings talent, depth and a lot of experience."

The firm has focused on building a powerhouse IP litigation team from coast to coast and across all significant industry sectors, according to Bob Steinberg, global co-chair of the firm's IP litigation group.

"The market for IP litigation continues to be strong, and this group of partners will add substantially to our reputation by helping us serve leading companies with their most challenging cases," he said.

Latham has about 2,000 lawyers in 31 worldwide offices including Barcelona, Spain; Beijing; Boston; Brussels; Chicago; London; Los Angeles; Madrid; Moscow; Munich; New York; Paris; Rome; San Francisco; Shanghai; Singapore; Tokyo; New Jersey; and Washington.