

CALIFORNIA'S TOP ENTERTAINMENT LAWYERS OF 2015

MARVIN S. PUTNAM

Putnam has been involved in some high profile cases this year, but said the thing he's most excited about is settling into his new home at Latham & Watkins LLP after leaving O'Melveny & Myers LLP in June, joining a group of partners who made the move last year.

He said the team is currently building out two floors of a Century City building that in February will become their new high-tech offices.

"There's been so many changes technologically and otherwise in terms of the law," he said. "To see a brand new space that incorporates all of those things is amazing."

Putnam said the biggest change at the new firm is the number of inquiries he gets for new business. He said in the past month he's received five calls from clients who are on the eve of trial and want him to take over their case.

"There's a lot more folks who are interested in coming to us," he said. "It gives you a wider berth of things, but also it allows you to take the things that are the most interesting and where you can provide the most help."

Putnam also won what he described as a "resounding unequivocal victory" for his

client AEG Live LLC in the wrongful death action brought by the family of pop legend Michael Jackson in California.

AEG was producing Jackson's "comeback" tour when he died from a fatal overdose and following a six-month trial, the jurors ruled unanimously in favor of AEG.

Latham & Watkins LLP Century City Litigation Partner

In January, the 2nd District Court of Appeal affirmed a Los Angeles County judge's pretrial rulings and the jury verdict in his client's favor. *Jackson et al. v. AEG Live LLC et al.*, 233 Cal.App.4th 1156.

"It's satisfying as an exclamation point on how you did at trial and that's always a great feeling, but it's also incredibly fulfilling to have this finally come to an end."

Putnam said he already has five trials on the calendar for next year, and he believes it could be an indication that companies are tired of baseless lawsuits from people who think "that company always settles."

"People are coming back to a place



where they're not allowing that kind of shakedown, and those cases that shouldn't be settled are going to trial," he said.

"I think that's an exciting and important trend that I think is better for business and better for what people think of the legal profession," Putnam added.

— Ashley Cullins