

Latham Snags Four Kasowitz IP Litigators In NY, Calif.

By **Bill Donahue**

Law360, New York (May 02, 2013, 6:06 PM ET) -- Latham & Watkins LLP has beefed up its growing intellectual property litigation practice by hiring four patent litigators away from Kasowitz Benson Torres & Friedman, the firm announced Thursday.

Former Kasowitz partners Douglas E. Lumish, Jeffrey Homrig and Gabriel S. Gross will join Latham's Silicon Valley office in Menlo Park, Calif., while Michael E. Eisenberg will be stationed at the firm's New York office.

Max Grant, global co-chairman of Latham's IP litigation practice, praised the hirings in a statement Thursday.

"This is a tightly knit group of collegial practitioners with a strong track record of trying and winning high-stakes patent cases for blue chip technology companies," Grant said. "The addition of these partners broadens our trial capabilities and confirms that Latham's IP practice is a force to be reckoned with in patent litigation."

Grant noted that the firm has added 15 patent litigation partners over the past three years, swelling the litigation-only IP practice to 100 attorneys and 35 partners. The firm said it had made "a series of bold market moves in recent years" to grow the group.

Lumish focuses on high-stakes patent litigation for technology companies. Last year, he successfully defended Google Inc. against infringement claims from Eolas Technologies Inc., winning a ruling in Texas federal court that the company's two Web browser patents were invalid.

Homrig worked the Eolas case with Lumish and also focuses on technology, as does Eisenberg. Gross, with a background in biology and biotechnology, concentrates on representing life sciences companies in patent disputes.

Sean Berkowitz, the chair of Latham's overall litigation department, said the moves "cemented" Latham's place in the ever-growing world of intellectual property litigation.

"The globalization of business, the consolidation of industries and the evolution of high-value capital from tangible to intangible assets have all propelled the growth of patent litigation in recent years, and we expect such trends to continue," Berkowitz said.

Matthew Rawlinson, the head of the Silicon Valley offices that will house Lumish, Homrig and Gross, said former Kasowitz partners would aid the firm in the Bay Area and across the country.

“In particular, our technology, life sciences and digital media clients now have more IP litigation firepower at their disposal,” Rawlinson said.

Lumish himself said he and his colleagues were drawn by the firm's “commitment” to build a top-flight patent trial team.

“I know my colleagues agree that we are excited about the opportunity to join Latham & Watkins, a firm with the resources, global platform and culture that will enable us to take our practices to a higher level,” Lumish said.

--Editing by Richard McVay.

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