

MoFo Nabs WilmerHale Drug IP Partner And Ex-Gilead Atty

By **Sophia Morris**

Law360, New York (October 17, 2016, 5:50 PM EDT) -- Morrison & Foerster LLP has added a former partner from WilmerHale and an ex-associate general counsel for Gilead Sciences Inc., both of whom litigate brand-name drug suits with generic drug makers, the firm said on Monday.

David Manspeizer joined Morrison & Foerster's New York office on Monday after more than six years as a partner at WilmerHale. Before working at WilmerHale, Manspeizer was the chief intellectual property officer at Pfizer Inc. unit Wyeth from 2002 to 2009. At Wyeth, he worked with Greg Chopskie, who will join Morrison & Foerster's Washington, D.C., office on Oct. 24, after almost four years as associate general counsel for Gilead.

The pair first worked together at Finnegan Henderson Farabow Garrett & Dunner LLP when Chopskie joined the firm in 1998, and since then they have represented companies such as Wyeth and Gilead as both outside and general counsel in Abbreviated New Drug Application suits against generic drug companies.

"The chance to help the firm grow and build a branded life sciences IP practice was very compelling for both of us," Manspeizer told Law360 on Monday. "I'm looking forward to working with people who are regularly at the forefront of important breaking IP disputes for the world's leading companies."

Manspeizer said that he and Chopskie will continue to work on representing pharmaceutical companies in suits against generic competitors. He said that one of the highlights of his career came during his time at Wyeth when he was representing the company in its suit against Teva Pharmaceuticals USA Inc. over Teva's release of a generic version of acid reflux drug Protonix. Teva paid \$2.15 billion to end the suit in 2013.

At Gilead, Chopskie also oversaw suits against generic drug companies under the Hatch-Waxman Act for small molecule products, according to the firm.

Chopskie was not immediately available to comment on Monday.

Prior to working at Wyeth, Manspeizer worked at Finnegan Henderson from 1991 to 2002. He received a BA from the University of Pennsylvania in 1986 and a JD from Rutgers Law School in 1991.

Chopskie has a BS from Georgetown University in 1992 and received a JD from George Mason University School of Law in 1999. He joined Finnegan Henderson in 1998, before leaving for Wyeth in 2004. He was

vice president and associate general counsel at Shionogi Inc. between 2011 and 2012 and then joined Gilead.

--Editing by Stephen Berg.

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