

## MoFo Adds 6 From Wilson Sonsini To SF IP Litigation Group

By **Melissa Daniels**

*Law360, Los Angeles (May 23, 2017, 5:46 PM EDT)* -- Morrison & Foerster LLP announced Tuesday the addition of six top intellectual property litigation attorneys from Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati PC to its San Francisco office, prepping the firm for future tech-based trials and proceedings at the U.S. International Trade Commission.

The new hires include partners Stefani E. Shanberg and Jennifer J. Schmidt, of counsel Robin L. Brewer, and associates Eugene Marder, Madeleine E. Greene and Michael J. Guo. Shanberg and Schmidt are known for representing some of Silicon Valley's top companies in IP disputes, the firm said, and the team has secured wins in federal court, appellate court, arbitration, the Patent and Trial Appeal Board and the ITC.

Shanberg told Law360 on Tuesday that the move is a growth opportunity for the team — though the decision wasn't one to be made lightly.

"Ultimately, the opportunity to be part of a destination IP litigation practice and work alongside some of the nation's top trial lawyers was too good to pass up," she said. "This was very thoughtfully considered on both sides."

Rich Hung, the co-chair of the IP litigation practice, told Law360 in an interview that he views the practice as part of a litigation group, paving the way for success in the courtroom. Much of the team also has technological backgrounds, he said.



Front row, from left, are new Morrison & Foerster partners Jennifer Schmidt and Stefani Shanberg. Back row, from left, are of counsel Robin Brewer and associates Madeleine E. Greene, Eugene Marder and Michael Guo. (Morrison & Foerster)

Hung said interest in Shanberg, Schmidt and their team stemmed from being impressed with their courtroom and ITC results.

Shanberg's practice focuses on patent litigation and the defense of technology companies — and she's also currently the president of the ITC Trial Lawyers Association. Her work has spanned diverse technologies like smartphone apps, email, network security, wireless communications, and other internet, hardware and software products and consumer goods.

Especially in the wake of the TC Heartland LLC v. Kraft Food Brands Group LLC decision that will likely expand where patent litigation occurs beyond the Eastern District of Texas, Shanberg says she sees the Northern District of California as a hotbed for patent litigation. The industry is also seeing a return of competitor litigation, she said, which requires keen technical expertise.

"For a long time, IP litigation was weighed down by a lot of troll lawsuits," she said. "These days, we're seeing more competitor litigation, more bet-the-company litigation."

She has a law degree from University of Texas School of Law and a bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Austin.

Schmidt also focuses on patent litigation as well as complex commercial litigation. She's spent more than a decade building up trial experience in cases with a variety of technologies before federal courts, the ITC, the PTAB and in arbitration. She has a degree in electrical engineering and computer science from Harvard University as well as a law degree from Yale Law School.

She told Law360 a technical background has allowed her to work in diverse areas and quickly learn a client's product.

"I'm excited now to bring that background to work with MoFo's technical attorneys and trial resources," she said.

Of counsel addition Brewer has represented clients in IP cases involving digital wallets, network security, video compression technology, database systems, internet advertising, email systems, smartphone apps, and online marketplaces. She has a postgraduate degree in mechanical engineering from the Institut National des Sciences Appliquees in Lyon, France; a bachelor's in biomedical engineering; and a bachelor's in engineering science from Dartmouth College. Brewer earned her J.D. at the George Washington University Law School.

Marder's work focuses on software, electronics, digital media and network technologies patent litigation. He's worked on high-stakes litigation in both district courts and the ITC, and has scored victories in dispositive motions, at trial and on appeal. Marder earned his law degree from Stanford Law School and has a bachelor's degree in international relations from the University of Southern California.

Greene's patent litigation work has spanned all stages of litigation in federal district courts throughout the country as well as the ITC and Federal Circuit. Her cases have involved technical fields like network security, video compression, internet applications, computer hardware and software, and housewares. She earned her law degree from the University of San Francisco School of Law and has a bachelor's degree in law and society from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Guo has worked on cases involving a range of technologies in district courts, the Federal Circuit, the

PTAB and the ITC. Before starting his legal career, he was a quantitative analyst and web developer. Guo has a law degree from the UCLA School of Law and a bachelor's degree in economics and electrical engineering/computer science from Yale University.

The firm is focused on growing its Bay Area presence. In the past year, four new corporate partners — Dario Avram, Patrick Huard, Alex Kaufman and Sara Terheggen — and partner Joshua Hill Jr., a white collar litigator, have joined the firm in the Bay Area.

The IP litigation bench is also experiencing a growth spurt, as the firm has added Mark Whitaker, David Manspeizer and Greg Chopskie in the last year. In total, the firm's patent group has more than 300 attorneys, more than half of whom are litigators.

Morrison & Foerster chair Darren Nashelsky said in a press release the new team's commitment to deep client relationships makes them an ideal fit for the firm.

"Stefani, Jennifer, and the rest of the team's technology expertise and focus also align with our reputation as a destination firm for technology companies looking for sophisticated and creative IP strategies," Nashelsky said.

--Editing by Breda Lund.

*Update: This story has been updated to clarify that MoFo has more than 300 attorneys in their patent group.*