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Law360's Legal Lions Of The Week

By Aebra Coe

Law360 (December 8, 2023, 1:19 PM EST) -- WilmerHale and Morrison Foerster LLP secured spots on top of this week's legal lions list, one by toppling a \$2 billion patent infringement verdict against its client and the other for its work on a groundbreaking abortion decision out of Texas.

WilmerHale secured a big win for Intel Corp. on Monday when the Federal Circuit vacated a \$2.18 billion infringement verdict against the tech giant over computer chip patents. The court found that VLSI Technology LLC erred on its damages calculation, and said Intel was wrongly barred from raising a defense that it had newly acquired a license for the computer chip patents. Intel is represented by William F. Lee, Alison Burton, Lauren B. Fletcher, Joseph J. Mueller, Steven Jared Horn, Amanda L. Major and Mary Virginia Sooter of WilmerHale.

Morrison Foerster LLP, the Center for Reproductive Rights and Kaplan Law Firm PLLC secured a newsworthy judgment Thursday allowing an abortion for a Dallas-Fort Worth woman whose pregnancy complications have prompted repeated visits to the emergency room, in what advocates believe is the first case of its kind in decades. The judge in the case granted a temporary restraining order prohibiting the enforcement of Texas abortion bans against Kate Cox, who is 20 weeks pregnant and whose fetus has been diagnosed with a fatal condition. Cox is represented by Austin Kaplan of Kaplan Law Firm PLLC, Molly Duane, Marc Hearron, Nicolas Kabat and Astrid Ackerman of the Center for Reproductive Rights and Jamie Levitt, J. Alexander Lawrence, Claire Abrahamson and Aditya Kamdar of Morrison Foerster LLP.

Winston & Strawn LLP and Jones Day landed a spot among this week's Legal Lions Monday when a California federal judge dismissed with prejudice a lawsuit against clients Monsanto Co., Bayer CropScience LP and The Scotts Co. LLC over product liability claims related to Roundup weed killer. The court found the complaint failed to allege that any of the Roundup purchased by the plaintiffs or anyone else had actually degraded into a dangerous cancer-causing substance, which was the premise of the claims. Monsanto and Bayer are represented by John J. Rosenthal and Jeff Wilkerson of Winston & Strawn LLP. Scotts is represented by Stephanie Dilworth, Jeffrey J. Jones, Margaret M. Dengler and Christopher S. Chorzepa of Jones Day.

Next up on this list are Susman Godfrey LLP and The Shore Firm, which secured a \$32.5 million jury verdict on behalf of the trustees of Purdue University, finding European microchip maker STMicroelectronics infringed a patent covering semiconductor technology held by the firms' clients. Purdue is represented by Michael W. Shore, Chijioke E. Offor and Halima Shukri Ndai of The Shore Firm and Brian D. Melton, John P. Lahad and Abbey McNaughton of Susman Godfrey LLP.

Sidley Austin LLP and Cooley LLP proved their prowess this week when a multibillion-dollar deal they worked on was made public. Swiss pharmaceutical giant Roche said on Monday that it plans to buy Carmot Therapeutics, a developer of obesity and diabetes drugs, for up to \$3.1 billion as it seeks to add weight-loss products to its portfolio. Sidley acted as legal counsel for Roche. Cooley is advising Carmot.

--Additional reporting by Najiyya Budaly, Dan McKay, Mike Curley, Kelly Lienhard, Dani Kass and Andrew Karpan. Editing by Nicole Bleier.

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