

Sheppard Mullin Nabs IP Pro From Finnegan In Palo Alto

By **Daniel Siegal**

Law360, Los Angeles (March 24, 2016, 4:09 PM ET) -- A former Finnegan Henderson Farabow Garrett & Dunner LLP partner and intellectual property veteran with expertise in patent litigation and prosecution across a range of technologies has joined Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP as a partner in Palo Alto, California, the firm announced on Thursday.

Weiguo (Will) Chen brings both technical experience — as the holder of a graduate engineering degree — and extensive experience in patent law to his new firm, where he will be a partner in the intellectual property practice group, Sheppard Mullin announced.

"Will is a skilled IP practitioner and an excellent addition to our formidable IP practice group," Guy N. Halgren, chairman of Sheppard Mullin, said in a statement Thursday. "He has a successful practice representing a variety of leading technology companies on patent prosecution, portfolio development and patent and trade secret litigation."

Chen focuses on every angle of patent counsel, with experience in patent litigation, patent office trials, client counseling, infringement and validity analysis and patent prosecution, according to Sheppard Mullin. Chen's track record includes patent work in the telecommunications, networking, electronic circuitry, semiconductor, software and medical device sectors, according to the firm.

Chen counsels clients in Silicon Valley and China on how to build comprehensive patent portfolios and frequently speaks on topics related to U.S. intellectual property litigation, and has published a book in China titled "U.S. Patent Litigation," according to Sheppard Mullin.

Daniel Yannuzzi, co-chair of Sheppard Mullin's intellectual property practice group, said in a statement on Thursday that Chen will provide a boost to the firm's ongoing growth of its intellectual property practice.

"Will joins Sheppard Mullin as part of our ongoing strategic goal to expand our intellectual property practice in Silicon Valley and firmwide," he said. "In particular, his skills are synergistic with our capabilities in China and he will further bolster our formidable IP presence in Silicon Valley."

On Thursday, Chen said in a statement his move is a chance to bring his expertise to a firm whose expanding strengths in intellectual property law and in China are a complementary platform for his own practice.

“I am excited to join Sheppard Mullin and have been very impressed by the entrepreneurial culture of the Silicon Valley office and the firm's significant growth of the IP group,” he said. “I was especially attracted to the firm’s full-service platform, strong California footprint and its successful expansion in China, which are key to growing my practice further.”

Chen received a bachelor of sciences degree from Tsinghua University in China in 1998 and a bachelor of laws degree from the school in 1999. He then received a master of laws degree from Franklin Pierce Law Center in 2001, and a master of sciences in electrical and computer engineering from Northeastern University in 2004.

At Sheppard Mullin, Chen is joining a full-service firm with 770 attorneys in 15 offices in the U.S., Europe and Asia, with a focus on corporate and technology matters, high-stakes litigation and complex financial transactions.

--Editing by Aaron Pelc.

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