

SHEPPARD MULLIN ADDS IP LITIGATION PARTNERS IN ORANGE COUNTY

Steven M. Hanle and Jennifer A. Trusso have joined the Orange County office of Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP as partners in the firm's Intellectual Property practice group. Hanle and Trusso were previously partners at Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth in Orange County.

"With Steve and Jennifer joining us, we continue to expand key practice groups and expand capabilities to better serve client needs. Their patent litigation knowledge and expertise will enhance our IP practice, particularly in the life sciences sector," said Guy Halgren, chairman of the firm.

Hanle's and Trusso's practices emphasize patent litigation in a wide range of technologies, focusing on pharmaceuticals and medical devices, and also including computer software and hardware, manufacturing technologies, optics, automotive, communications and lighting. They were recently part of the team that prevailed at trial and on appeal for Amphastar Pharmaceuticals in a major patent case brought under the Hatch-Waxman Act. Hanle and Trusso have also had success winning patent cases on summary judgment and at the Federal Circuit. They also have significant trial court and appellate experience in other intellectual property and complex business litigation.

"Jennifer and I were attracted to the firm's dedication to continue building its IP group and we look forward to growing the firm's patent litigation practice," said Hanle, who is the current President of the Federal Bar Association in Orange County. "We are thrilled to be joining a top-notch, national firm that also has an outstanding reputation in Orange County. The firm's multi-disciplinary IP depth and its regulatory practice in Washington, D.C. will serve our clients well."

"We are excited to have Steve and Jennifer join our IP group and the Orange County office," commented Carlo Van den Bosch, co-chair of the firm's Intellectual Property practice group. "They bring strong individual and collective backgrounds with more than twenty-five years of combined litigation experience, including trial expertise on cutting-edge patent matters."

Hanle received a J.D. from Loyola Law School in 1993 and a B.S. from University of California at Los Angeles in 1986. Trusso received a J.D., *cum laude*, from Loyola Law School 1998 and a B.A. from San Diego State University in 1995.

Sheppard Mullin has 60 attorneys based in its Orange County office. Earlier this year a ten-attorney team joined the office as part of the Real Estate, Land Use and Environmental practice group, which included partners Geoff Willis and Deborah Rosenthal.

Firmwide, Sheppard Mullin's Intellectual Property practice group is comprised of more than 60 attorneys with a variety of scientific and engineering specialties. In April, IP partners Marc Sockol and Karen Canaan joined Sheppard Mullin's Silicon Valley office.

About Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP

Sheppard Mullin is a full service AmLaw 100 firm with more than 520 attorneys in 11 offices located throughout California and in New York, Washington, D.C. and Shanghai. The firm's California offices are located in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Silicon Valley, Santa Barbara, Century City, Orange County, Del Mar Heights and San Diego. Founded in 1927 on the principle that the firm would succeed only if its attorneys delivered prompt, high quality and cost-effective legal services, Sheppard Mullin provides legal counsel to U.S. and international clients. Companies turn to Sheppard Mullin to handle a full range of corporate and technology matters, high stakes litigation and complex financial transactions. In the U.S., the firm's clients include more than half of the Fortune 100 companies.