

Sheppard Mullin Snags Dickstein Patent Vet In LA

By **Bill Donahue**

Law360, New York (February 26, 2013, 1:42 PM ET) -- Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP has beefed up the intellectual property practice at its Los Angeles office by luring a veteran partner from Dickstein Shapiro LLP's local office, the firm announced Monday.

David A. Randall joined the firm with more than 20 years of experience representing clients in patent, trademark and trade secret disputes in U.S. and foreign courts, as well as prosecuting patents at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and other patent offices.

Practice group co-chairman Steve Korniczky called Randall "the latest high profile" attorney to join the group, which now has 90 attorneys.

"Dave joining us represents another step forward in our strategic plan to continue to expand our patent prosecution and litigation capabilities," Korniczky said in a statement. "He is an accomplished IP attorney who counts recognized industry leaders across the globe as clients, and further strengthens and deepens our bench of patent litigators."

Randall is the fifth major lateral hire in as many months for Sheppard Mullin's IP practice. The firm added ex-Greenberg Traurig LLP partner Jim Soong in Palo Alto earlier this month and Kirkland & Ellis LLP patent litigator Laura Burson in January. In October, it snagged litigators Laura Chapman, Brad Graveline and Scott Miller from Foley & Lardner LLP, Winston & Strawn LLP and Novak Druce Connolly Bove & Quigg LLP, respectively.

Randall handles clients in a wide variety of tech fields, and is fresh off successfully defending Belkin International Inc., Best Buy Co. Inc. and RadioShack Corp. against claims that the companies infringed radio frequency transmitter technology held by Aerielle Technologies.

"Dave's clients span a broad range of technology sectors, including aerospace, biofuels and biochemical, software, optical communications, network systems, satellite, semiconductor, and video gaming, which dovetails well with existing clients and industry expertise," Sheppard Mullin Chairman Guy N. Halgren said in a statement. "He brings decades of private practice expertise to Sheppard Mullin."

On top of litigation and prosecution, Randall also guides clients through patent interferences, appeals and trademark opposition/cancellation proceedings at the patent office and provides strategic counseling on technology transfer and licensing agreements, litigation avoidance, domain name disputes and portfolio management.

The attorney said he was excited to be at Sheppard Mullin, particularly to be reunited with several former colleagues from the now-defunct Los Angeles IP boutique Lyon & Lyon LLP. Randall, IP chairman Korniczky and new hire Burson were all once attorneys at the firm, which went under in 2002.

"I am impressed with Sheppard Mullin's significant footprint and reputation throughout California and beyond, and I was particularly attracted by the successful growth of the firm's IP practice, its strong presence in Asia, and its robust full-service platform," Randall said in a statement announcing the hire.

--Editing by Richard McVay.

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