

Sheppard Mullin's IP Growth Continues With Connolly Bove Pro

By **Sindhu Sundar**

Law360, New York (September 06, 2012, 4:21 PM ET) -- Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP continued the expansion of its intellectual property practice group with its latest hire, adding to its Los Angeles office an IP expert from IP and business law firm Connolly Bove Lodge & Hutz LLP, the firm said Tuesday.

Bruce Chapman — who has expanded his IP practice in Los Angeles over roughly 20 years, including stints at Hogan Lovells predecessor Hogan & Hartson LLP and Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP — made the move after seven years at Connolly Bove, drawn to the size of Sheppard Mullin's IP practice, which now counts roughly 70 attorneys, 15 of whom are in Los Angeles, Chapman said Thursday.

"Sheppard Mullin has a large and growing IP practice, bigger than my old firm's IP practice, and flexible in terms of its rates and fees," Chapman said. "That, combined with its international reach, make it a very attractive firm to work for."

Chapman, who specializes in areas such as patent litigation as well as trademark, copyright and trade secret suits, noted there was a lot more intellectual property work originating in the Los Angeles area in the 1990s, a trend that has waned since bigger companies have moved out of the city to other parts of the state.

But his new focus at the firm will be to target the growing smaller and medium-sized companies in the city, with whom Sheppard Mullin has stronger ties, to expand the firm's existing offerings to what he characterized as an underserved group, according to Chapman.

Chapman, the third IP litigation partner to join Sheppard Mullin over the past year, has represented in IP litigation a number of firms, which include medical device companies as well as electronics, software, biotechnology and telecommunications firms, the firm said in a statement Tuesday.

"Bruce joins Sheppard Mullin as part of our strategic goal of adding attorneys with thriving practices who have an interest in continuing to grow our IP practice," Nick Setty, co-chairman of the firm's IP practice group, said in the statement. "He brings a significant IP practice to our Los Angeles office and further strengthens our litigation capabilities. Bruce fits extremely well with the firm's collegial atmosphere that has become Sheppard Mullin's cultural trademark."

The addition of Chapman follows the hires of former Sidley Austin LLP patent litigator Ed Anderson at its Palo Alto, Calif., office in March, and former Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP IP practice group chairwoman Jill Pietrini at its Century City, Calif., office in January, according to the firm.

Setty himself is a relatively recent addition to the firm, having moved to Sheppard Mullin's Palo Alto office in October from Fish & Richardson PC, where he served as managing principal of its Atlanta office while working part time in Silicon Valley, the firm said.

Sheppard Mullin has nearly 600 attorneys in 16 offices spread across the U.S., Europe and Asia.

--Editing by Rebecca Flanagan.

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