

IP Hires: O'Melveny, McKool Smith, Sen. Marco Rubio

By **Britain Eakin**

Law360 (June 4, 2021, 6:10 PM EDT) -- O'Melveny & Myers, McKool Smith and Hogan Lovells are among the latest firms to boost their intellectual property teams, while Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, also brought on as general counsel an attorney who advised his Republican Senate colleague, North Carolina's Thom Tillis, on IP cases. Here's what you need to know about these notable hires.

Hogan Lovells

Hogan Lovells has added an intellectual property litigator from Polsinelli PC, who will join the firm's San Francisco and Silicon Valley offices.

Nitin Gambhir, who was a shareholder at Polsinelli, has joined the firm's IP, media and technology, or IPMT, practice. Gambhir represents a variety of tech clients, both defendants and plaintiffs, in complex IP lawsuits and said he was excited to join the firm because of its "overall prestige and reputation."

"The firm also provides personal opportunities to grow and be part of a growing practice group as we continue to invest in top, diverse IP talent," Gambhir said. "But perhaps most importantly, [I joined] because of the people I met during the interview process. They are all not only extremely accomplished lawyers — but it also felt like I was coming onto a real team where everyone supports each other and gets along."

McKool Smith

McKool Smith PC has added three new intellectual property attorneys, including former King & Spalding attorneys Steven J. Rizzi and Ramy Emad Hanna, along with Blair M. Jacobs, a former Paul Hastings LLP litigator.

Rizzi and Hanna both decades of experience working high-stakes patent litigation, having spent the past eight years working together on a variety of patent suits involving software, semiconductors, life sciences and other technologies.

"It has a very strong trial practice, especially in patent litigation and other IP litigation," Rizzi said of their move to the firm. "That, coupled with the strong presence in Texas, which continues to be a leading venue for patent litigation, was the main draw for what we were looking for."

Meanwhile, Jacobs joins the firm as a principal after a six-year stint as a partner with Paul Hastings, and

will work alongside recent McKool Smith hires including the former acting general counsel of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and a telecommunications litigator who clocked a decade as a partner at Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP before jumping ship.

"It's kind of [like] an entrepreneurial startup opportunity on some level," Jacobs said in describing the mood at McKool Smith. Jacobs comes to the firm after a six-year stint as a partner with Paul Hastings's Washington office.

O'Melveny & Myers

O'Melveny & Myers LLP has hired a onetime Patent Trial and Appeal Board vice chief judge and former senior legal adviser to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office director for its intellectual property and technology practice.

William "Tim" Fink recently joined as partner in O'Melveny's office in Washington and will be leading the firm's USPTO practice. The firm said that includes PTAB post-grant proceedings, and also expanding "the firm's footprint in this growing area."

"With its client base and established, but growing practice in these tribunals, O'Melveny was a natural place for me to bring my unique background and skills," Fink said by email. "The firm's outstanding lawyers and renowned culture also made it an easy choice for me."

Sen. Marco Rubio

Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., has hired as his general counsel an attorney who advised Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., on intellectual property matters.

Elliott Tomlinson will now advise Rubio, Tillis said during a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing. The attorney previously counseled Tillis on judicial nominations and IP matters.

"He's just done an extraordinary job," Tillis said. "My loss is Rubio's gain."

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