

IP Hires: Cisco, Venable, Merchant & Gould

By **Tiffany Hu**

Law360 (July 2, 2021, 4:04 PM EDT) -- Cisco has brought on as its new chief legal officer a former Microsoft general counsel known for her advocacy of diversity and inclusion in the legal industry, while Venable hired a former Pillsbury Winthrop attorney as partner of its intellectual property group. Here are the details on these and other notable hires.

Cisco



Dev Stahlkopf

Cisco Systems Inc. announced Tuesday that the Silicon Valley technology giant hired as its new chief legal officer Microsoft Inc.'s former general counsel, who has been an outspoken proponent of diversity and inclusion in the legal industry.

Cisco CEO Chuck Robbins wrote in a blog post that he's pleased to welcome **Dev Stahlkopf**, who will begin working at the company Aug. 2. Robbins said Stahlkopf brings with her extensive experience in many "key issues," including global geopolitical matters, cross-border data issues, data privacy, intellectual property, immigration reform and diversity initiatives.

"She also has incredible knowledge in software, large company transformations and a relentless focus on operational excellence and agility," Robbins said.

Benesch



Mircea Tipescu

Benesch Friedlander Coplan & Aronoff LLP has added an experienced intellectual property attorney with a focus on patent law as a partner in its Chicago office, continuing its strategy of aggressive lateral recruitment, the firm announced Wednesday.

Mircea Tipescu joined Benesch's litigation practice after four years with Michael Best & Friedrich LLP. Tipescu told Law360 on Thursday that he joined the firm because of its strategic growth and entrepreneurial spirit.

"Mircea is a strong addition to our team," Benesch IP Chair Kal Shah said in a statement. "He is a seasoned and versatile litigator and adapts his core strategy to fit his clients' business needs and objectives. Not only that, Mircea's ability to winnow cases to key strategic issues and evidence is extraordinary."

Venable



Qian Huang

A former Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP attorney has jumped over to Venable LLP's intellectual property group, bringing with her years of experience in the tech field guiding clients on patent issues.

Qian Huang has been added to Venable's roster of partners in its Washington, D.C., office, the firm said June 14.

Huang told Law360 she had been at Pillsbury most recently for about eight years, but that mainly she was looking for a better platform for integrated services.

She noted that Venable a couple of years ago folded into its practice IP firm Fitzpatrick Cella Harper & Scinto.

"Basically, the IP boutique in the umbrella of a general practice law firm, and how well the services can be integrated is interesting," she said.

Merchant & Gould



Andrew L. Jagenow

Intellectual property firm Merchant & Gould PC named an experienced attorney who's served in a variety of leadership roles including chair of the diversity committee as the new managing partner for its Denver office, the firm announced.

Andrew L. Jagenow, who's been with Merchant & Gould for 11 years, was named Denver managing partner last week, replacing Greg Leibold after he joined Lewis Roca's IP practice earlier this month.

"It's an honor," Jagenow told Law360 on Friday. "This is as fine a group of professionals as you'll find anywhere and it's an exciting opportunity for me to move the office forward as we emerge from the pandemic."

Sorey & Gilliland



Derek Gilliland

Sorey & Gilliland LLP has **opened an office** in Waco, Texas, giving the boutique firm a presence in the Western District of Texas as it eyes a growing intellectual property practice, the firm has announced.

Attorney Derek Gilliland will head the firm's IP offerings in Waco, looking to handle matters such as allegations of patent and trade secret infringement and trademark and copyright violations, according to the firm's announcement on Wednesday.

Gilliland regularly works on IP cases as part of his practice, while also handling other civil litigation matters such as product liability, breach of contract and personal injury cases, according to the firm.

"Given the increase in the number of cases we're handling in the Western District, along with our firm's already close ties to Waco, opening this new office now was simply a no-brainer," Gilliland said in a statement on Wednesday.

--Additional reporting by Adrian Cruz, Dorothy Atkins, Adam Lidgett and Kevin Penton. Editing by Amy Rowe.