

Sheppard Mullin Lands IP Litigation Partner In San Francisco

By **Linda Chiem**

Law360, New York (October 01, 2012, 3:39 PM ET) -- Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP has added to its San Francisco office a Foley & Lardner LLP intellectual property partner experienced in multiparty intellectual property litigation, unfair competition and trade secrets disputes, the firm announced Monday.

Laura L. Chapman brings with her to Sheppard Mullin extensive experience in other intellectual property matters, including breach of contract, business fraud, employee, noncompete and customer solicitation cases, the firm said.

Chapman said she was attracted to Sheppard Mullin's collaborative corporate culture.

"The strength and nationwide resources of the firm's IP group are very impressive and will serve my clients well," she said. "I am also attracted to Sheppard Mullin's collaborative, entrepreneurial culture, as well as the partnership's renowned transparency."

Sheppard Mullin's top brass praised the addition of Chapman to the firm's intellectual property practice group, saying her skills and experience make her an excellent fit for the firm.

"Laura has a broad IP litigation practice, which is an excellent fit for us given the breadth and depth of our intellectual property practice group," Sheppard Mullin chairman Guy N. Halgren said in a statement. "Her expertise also dovetails well with the firm's existing capabilities."

Chapman, a Smith College graduate who earned her law degree from the University of Southern California, will serve as lead counsel on a number of patent, trademark and copyright actions pending in different district courts throughout the U.S., the firm said.

Chapman joins Sheppard Mullin as part of the firm's strategic goal of adding top-notch intellectual property attorneys with thriving practices, according to Carlo F. Van den Bosch, co-chairman of Sheppard Mullin's intellectual property practice group.

"She brings a significant IP practice to our San Francisco office and further strengthens our litigation capabilities," he said. "Laura fits extremely well with the firm's collegial atmosphere that has become Sheppard Mullin's cultural trademark."

The firm has steadily boosted the intellectual property ranks at its other offices as well. The firm's companywide intellectual property practice group now numbers 85 attorneys, Sheppard Mullin said.

Sheppard Mullin recently landed former Winston & Strawn IP litigation partner Brad Graveline at its Chicago office. Last month, IP litigation partner Bruce Chapman joined the firm's Los Angeles office from Connolly Bove Lodge & Hutz LLP. Earlier this year also in California, the firm added IP litigation partners Ed Anderson in Palo Alto from Sidley Austin LLP and partner Jill Pietrini in Century City, Los Angeles, from Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP.

Sheppard Mullin has approximately 600 attorneys in 16 offices in the U.S., Europe and Asia, specializing in corporate and technology matters, high-stakes litigation and complex financial transactions.

--Editing by Katherine Rautenberg.

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