

Perkins Coie gets Bay Area boost

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Perkins Coie has expanded its West Coast antitrust group with the addition of three partners from Bingham McCutchen LLP.

Geraldine Alexis, David Chiappetta and Jason Yurasek joined Perkins Coie's commercial litigation practice in San Francisco on 18 July.

Alexis spent three years as co-chair of the antitrust and trade regulation group at Bingham McCutchen, after three years as partner at the firm. Before that, she spent 21 years at Sidley Austin LLP in Chicago, with a two-year sabbatical as legal counsel at the US Department of Justice.

Alexis has conducted several bench and jury trials and represented clients before the department's antitrust division, the Federal Trade Commission and state enforcement authorities. She is a member of the American Bar Association, and was a member of the antitrust section's financial services committee between 2003 and 2006.

Alexis says she is delighted to join Perkins Coie. "I know that, given the strategic locations of Perkins Coie's offices and the superlative legal service David Chiappetta, Jason Yurasek and the many other great lawyers provide, my clients will be well-served," she says.

Chiappetta, 40, focuses his practice on class actions and litigation of complex commercial disputes, particularly antitrust and unfair business practice claims. He spent eight years at Bingham McCutchen, four of them as partner, after five years as an associate at Seltzer Caplan Wilkins & McMahan in San Diego.

Chiappetta says he has been impressed with Perkins Coie's dedication to building its California commercial litigation practice.

"It's very exciting to be a part of that process," he adds.

During his time at Seltzer Caplan, Chiappetta won a suit against OJ Simpson over litigation support services provided to Simpson during his murder trial.

Yurasek, 35, specialises in antitrust/IP crossover issues, and has acted in both a defence and a prosecutorial role. His experience covers a wide range of commercial litigation matters, including antitrust, business torts, IP and trademark litigation.

He spent eight years at Bingham McCutchen, where he was appointed partner in 2005. Before that, he spent a year with Jenner & Block in Chicago.

Yurasek says he was attracted to Perkins Coie's impressive client list, "which includes some of the most exciting technology companies as well as the top companies from just about every industry."

Partner **Geoff Howard**, Bingham McCutchen in San Francisco, says the firm's antitrust practice continues to grow. He points to the recent appointments of antitrust partner **Thane Scott** in Boston, and of counsel **Hiroshi Iyori** in Tokyo. In San Francisco, **Holly House** has been named new co-chair of Bingham McCutchen's antitrust and trade regulation group. Nonetheless, Howard says he will be sorry to lose the partners, who are "good friends and good lawyers."

Jay Rossiter, of Perkins Coie in San Francisco, says the appointments signal the firm's boom growth period. "We have a well-developed antitrust practice in Seattle and Washington, DC," he says. "Now we have the same expertise in California."

Rossiter says that the new hires bring a wealth of experience in commercial litigation and in antitrust in particular. "This is one of the stepping stones to further hires in California," he adds.

According to its website, Perkins Coie has 32 antitrust specialists, 25 of whom are partners.

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