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IP Firm Merchant & Gould Adds 3 Attys In DC Area

By **Adrian Cruz**

Law360 (October 21, 2021, 3:42 PM EDT) -- Intellectual property firm Merchant & Gould PC said it has added three attorneys in its Washington, D.C.-area office this fall, including an experienced partner who specializes in U.S. International Trade Commission disputes.

Josh Hartman joined Merchant & Gould in September as a partner after spending a little over three years with ITC litigation boutique Adduci Mastriani & Schaumberg LLP. Additionally, associates Catherine S. Mayer and Hayley Ostrin joined the firm Oct. 12.

"With the evolution of our global economy, the ITC is more important than ever as a forum for intellectual property and unfair competition disputes," Hartman said in a statement. "Kate, Hayley and I are excited to have joined Merchant & Gould and to bring collective relief to our clients in Section 337 matters."

Hartman, a graduate of Columbia Law School, has over 13 years of experience working on a variety of IP and unfair competition disputes before both the ITC and U.S. district courts. In April, Hartman helped South Korean conglomerate LG obtain a \$1.8 billion settlement in a dispute over electric car batteries, and he's represented a number of other Fortune 500 companies in areas such as life sciences, fintech, cleantech and cybersecurity.

"Josh is an excellent addition to Merchant & Gould, as we expand support and capabilities for partnering with our clients," CEO Christopher J. Leonard said in a statement. "More than ever, ITC litigation involves not just patent-based causes of action, but a broader range of IP and business issues. With Josh's hire and niche, we are increasing our existing IP capabilities and helping establish Merchant & Gould in the ITC litigation space."

Mayer, a graduate of George Washington University Law School, and Ostrin, who graduated from University of Texas School of Law, focus their practices on ITC matters as well, working with clients on the different aspects of unfair import investigations under Section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930.

"Hayley and Kate are excellent additions to Merchant & Gould, as we expand our litigation capabilities. Their international trade experience and focus on Section 337 investigations will be invaluable to our clients looking to protect their global assets," D.C. managing partner E. Joseph Gess said in a statement. "Our office is well situated and located for this type of work, and the backgrounds and insight offered by Hayley and Kate will greatly enhance our ITC practice capabilities."

Along with the three new hires this fall, the Minnesota-based Merchant & Gould made a number of leadership changes in June. Partner Andrew Jagenow was appointed head of the firm's Denver office and partners Loretta L. Freeman and Ryan C. Smith were named co-heads of the patent design and trade dress group.

Merchant & Gould has around 100 attorneys and staff in its seven offices in Atlanta, New York, Washington, D.C., Denver, Minneapolis, Los Angeles and Knoxville, Tennessee, according to the firm.

--Editing by Marygrace Murphy.

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