

McKool Smith Nabs ITC, Patent Pro From Cadwalader

By **Stewart Bishop**

Law360, New York (May 29, 2012, 4:26 PM ET) -- McKool Smith has landed veteran U.S. International Trade Commission trial lawyer and patent litigation ace Kent R. Stevens from Cadwalader Wickersham & Taft LLP to join the firm as a principal in its Washington office, the firm said Tuesday.

Stevens has more than 20 years of experience in intellectual property litigation and specializes in handling Section 337 investigations before the ITC. He also has appeared in proceedings relating to ITC investigations before U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, according to the firm.

"Clients are turning to the ITC for relief against the importation of products that infringe upon their patents," Mike McKool, co-founder and chairman of McKool Smith, said in a statement. "Kent is an expert in ITC litigation and a very well-respected trial lawyer. His expertise will be a valuable asset to our clients and our national IP litigation practice."

Prior to joining private practice, Stevens worked as both an investigative attorney and senior investigative attorney for the ITC's Office of Unfair Import Investigations, the firm says.

During his 10 years at the ITC, Stevens took on cases involving petitions for temporary relief, gray market cases and several patent cases involving pharmaceutical, electronic and other technologies, according to the firm.

Stevens said that when he worked alongside McKool Smith in a prior case, he was impressed by the high-caliber lawyers he worked with as well as the firm's dedicated and hard-working culture.

"I have always had a great deal of respect for McKool Smith and the firm's track record, particularly in intellectual property litigation," Stevens said. "When you think of McKool Smith, you associate the firm with first-rate trial lawyers and big courtroom verdicts. I am thrilled to have joined such a distinguished group."

Stevens said McKool Smith is a great platform for him to work on some major and challenging trials going forward.

"It's clear that McKool has a nice client base and has a lot of litigation at the ITC," Stevens said. "I'd like to win some patent cases."

Part of what he loves about his job is the accelerated nature of the ITC and the challenges it presents.

"It's fast-paced. You don't get bored," Stevens said. "You've got to master stuff very quickly."

Moreover, Stevens said he likes working in and around an agency that is so well versed in patent litigation yet provides him with the opportunity to educate judges on patent specifics.

"I enjoy the teaching aspect of the ITC; you have to educate a judge on why a patent is or is not infringed," Stevens said. "Working in a context like that is quite challenging and enjoyable."

Stevens also served as a law clerk for Judge John J. Mathias in the ITC's office of administrative law judges. He also is a former president of the ITC Trial Lawyers Association and often speaks on international trade issues relating to intellectual property litigation, the firm says.

Stevens earned his bachelor's degree, Master of Public Administration and law degree from Drake University and a Master of Laws in international and comparative law from the Georgetown University Law Center.

McKool Smith has more than 170 litigators across offices in Austin, Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles, Marshall, New York, Silicon Valley and Washington, D.C. It represents clients across a broad range of practice areas, including complex commercial litigation, intellectual property, bankruptcy and white-collar defense.

--Editing by Richard McVay.

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