

Akin Gump Snags Ex-Magistrate Judge For IP Practice

By **Roxanne Palmer**

Law360, New York (October 03, 2011, 8:38 PM ET) -- Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP announced Monday that former U.S. Magistrate Judge Chad Everingham was hanging up his robe to join the firm as an intellectual property partner in its newly opened Longview, Texas, office.

Everingham handled more than 75 Markman proceedings and tried more than 20 patent cases during his tenure on the bench in the Eastern District of Texas, one of the busiest patent courts in the U.S., according to the firm. He also presided over more than 200 civil cases, mostly involving IP disputes, it said.

Everingham told Law360 on Monday that he was impressed by the Akin Gump attorneys he had seen in action.

"The firm has an international reputation for its excellent ability to handle [IP] matters," he said.

The former judge will be advising clients on various IP litigation matters, particularly patent litigation, according to Akin Gump.

Everingham "literally helped write the book on patent litigation in one of the country's IP litigation hot spots," Steven Zager, head of the firm's IP practice, said in a statement Monday.

Akin Gump announced another IP hire Monday: partner David M. Stein, who comes to the firm's Los Angeles office from McDermott Will & Emery LLP, where he was chief operating officer of the firm's East Texas practice group. Stein will also practice out of the Longview office, according to the firm.

At McDermott Will, Stein represented Honeywell International Inc. in PureChoice Inc.'s patent suit claiming Honeywell products infringed a patent for an environmental monitoring system, Akin Gump said. A Texas federal judge ruled the patent claims were invalid for indefiniteness, an opinion upheld by the Federal Circuit in June 2009, it said.

"Our clients will benefit greatly from the addition of these talented partners — particularly with their deep experience in critical jurisdictions such as the Eastern District of Texas," Akin Gump Chairman BruceMcLean said Monday.

Before serving on the federal bench, Everingham was the permanent law clerk to U.S. District Judge T. John Ward from 2000 to 2007, according to the announcement. He received his bachelor's degree from Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas, and earned his law degree at Baylor Law School.

Stein received his bachelor's degree from Stanford University and his law degree from Georgetown University Law Center.

On Sept. 12, Akin Gump said Browne Woods George LLP founding partner Edward Woods and attorney Susan Leader, both veteran IP, entertainment, contract and commercial litigators, had joined the firm's Los Angeles office.

--Additional reporting by Keith Goldberg. Editing by Elizabeth Bowen.

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