

## Akin Gump Recruits 2 Jones Day Tech Attys For LA Office

By **Bill Donahue**

*Law360, New York (May 17, 2012, 8:17 PM ET)* -- Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP's Los Angeles outfit has added to its arsenal of technology attorneys with the addition of two Jones Day partners who handle major consumer electronics companies in corporate transactions and intellectual property cases in the U.S. and overseas, the firm said Wednesday.

Paul C. Lin and Kevin G. McBride both have experience handling a wide range of technology clients, with Lin focusing on mergers and acquisitions and surrounding legal needs and McBride specializing on patent litigation, according to the firm.

John Karaczynski, Lin and McBride's new boss as partner in charge of the LA office, praised the hiring in the context of Akin Gump's efforts to expand on the West Coast.

"We are thrilled to have Kevin and Paul join our team," Karaczynski said, noting that the office has added 25 attorneys over the past two years to its IP, corporate and project finance teams. "We are pleased to be able to strengthen the breadth and depth of our offerings in California to serve our clients better."

Though primarily handling corporate finance for large electronics companies in the U.S. and Asia, Lin is also involved with his clients' other needs, representing and counseling clients on product liability, IP and antitrust issues, the firm said. While at Jones Day, for example, Lin successfully defended Vizio Inc. against nationwide class action claims that its LCD TVs were defective.

McBride has narrowed in on patent litigation, representing software, media and consumer electronics companies in a number of actions in both federal court and the U.S. International Trade Commission. He's also worked on trademark and proprietary information cases.

Both said they were excited for the move to Akin Gump.

"Paul and I are both very happy to be joining Akin Gump, whose depth, global footprint and strong culture of collaboration make it a great fit with our clients," McBride said. "The strengths of the firm's corporate and IP practices are well-known, and its growing presence in, and emphasis on, Asia will provide a great support for the cross-border aspect of our practices."

Lin added that the kind of access to China that Akin Gump could provide was particularly important to him.

"My practice is primarily a cross-border practice that involves both transactions and litigation, representing companies from the U.S. and Greater China with respect to their legal matters all over the world. Akin Gump's existing international practice and its growing presence in Greater China is very beneficial in terms of further developing my cross-border practice," Lin said.

Frank Reddick, co-leader of the firm's corporate practice, echoed the sentiment about Akin Gump's efforts to expand its focus on technology, particularly in Asia.

"This is an exciting development for the firm and signals our continued commitment to build a leading practice focused on the technology and consumer electronics sector," Reddick said. "With the arrival of these accomplished practitioners, we further extend our footprint in the California tech industry and strengthen our Asia-Pacific presence, building on the recent opening of our Hong Kong office, our presence in Beijing and our planned Singapore office."

Before joining Akin Gump, Lin spent seven years at Jones Day, before which he was at Coudert Brothers LLP and Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP. McBride was at Jones Day for 20 years, after starting out at Kirkland & Ellis LLP.

--Editing by Kat Laskowski.

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