

Shook Hardy Adds 2 Ex-Microsoft Patent Pros

By **Andrew Westney**



Bill Mulgrew

Jim Harmon

Law360, New York (December 04, 2014, 6:22 PM ET) -- Shook Hardy & Bacon LLP said on Tuesday that it has bolstered its intellectual property and high technology practice with the addition to its Seattle office of two former Microsoft Corp. attorneys with experience in patent litigation and licensing.

Bill Harmon and John Mulgrew joined Shook Hardy as partners after serving in a variety of roles with Microsoft both in the U.S. and abroad, working within the company's intellectual property group, as well as outside it, the firm said.

Mulgrew told Law360 on Thursday that his collaborations with the firm while at Microsoft, including responding to patent trolls and other IP threats, made the transition to his new role easy.

"I really like the team of people at Microsoft, and that's a testament to why I stayed for 10 years," Mulgrew said. "It's a great place to work. But I worked with Shook for the years I worked at Microsoft, and they're fantastic people and really good attorneys."

Mulgrew, who joined the firm on Oct. 1, most recently served Microsoft as an assistant general counsel and team leader for patent conflicts. After joining the company in 2004, he also served as IP and general counsel for all Microsoft research organizations in Europe and the Middle East and led a patent analysis team in the U.S. in charge of licensing and litigation projects, the firm said.

Harmon joined Shook on Dec. 1 after serving as an assistant general counsel at Microsoft in its patent litigation group, where he led litigation to defend Microsoft against infringement claims, the firm said. In

11 years at Microsoft, Harmon also served as a leader of the company's global standards group, intellectual property group and digital crimes unit.

Harmon will expand on his cybercrime background with Shook Hardy, strengthening the firms' digital and data security practice, the firm said.

"In cybersecurity, many businesses that rely on eCommerce face cyber criminals exploiting their brands to victimize their customers," Harmon said in a statement. "Shook has the legal and technical expertise to go after the bad guys so that our clients can shield their customers from abuse and protect the integrity of their brands."

Mulgrew noted that while at Microsoft, he worked closely with both Harmon and Bart Eppenauer, a former chief patent counsel for the company who left to become managing partner of Shook Hardy's Seattle office when it opened in December 2013.

The firm had been looking for the right time to open an office in the city to work more closely with Microsoft and other clients, including Nike Inc., Eppenauer told Law360.

"The appeal for me as well as for John is we continue to work for Microsoft, but we're also able to bring our experience as in-house counsel and take that to other companies," Eppenauer said.

Economic pressures are forcing attorneys, both in-house and with firms, to be more creative in finding solutions for their clients, Mulgrew said.

"People across the industry are being asked to do more with less, a lot less sometimes," Mulgrew said. "I think the successful law firms will be the ones that can meet or exceed the goal without exceeding the budget. The financial constraints are very, very real, but it doesn't mean you do less — it means you find another way to do it."

Harmon earned his bachelor's degree and master's in business administration from Santa Clara University and his law degree from Santa Clara University School of Law.

Mulgrew earned his bachelor's degree from Rice University and his law degree from the George Washington University School of Law.

--Editing by Christine Chun.