

INDUSTRY WATCH

Shook Hardy Liability Litigator Leaves for Morgan Lewis

By Amy K. Speers

After three years in Shook Hardy & Bacon's San Francisco outpost, product-liability litigator Joan Haratani has leapt to Morgan, Lewis & Bockius.

Haratani says Kansas City-based Shook Hardy, at the time, was a step up for her in terms of geographic reach, from Oakland-based Crosby, Heafey, Roach & May, now Reed Smith. Now, it's Morgan Lewis' global presence that lured Haratani away.

"What Morgan Lewis offers is a very strong and diverse platform in California," says Haratani, who joined the firm Jan. 21. "The offices are full-service in all the fields in California and are strategically located throughout Europe and Asia."

Haratani is well known for her work in pharmaceutical and medical-device litigation.

She describes Morgan Lewis lawyers as "enthusiastic experts in their fields and just nice people."

Haratani says she's glad to be a part of a firm that rewards very strong, opinionated women and is excited to be able to work with such "stellar trial lawyers" as Franklin "Brock" Gowdy, Steve Finn and John Larson.

Gowdy, managing partner of Morgan Lewis' San Francisco office, says the firm is recognized as the fastest-growing major law firm in California.

"We have grown in the last two years in California by about 20 percent," Gowdy says. "We have added, since that time, 30 senior lawyers. Joan is one of the most recent."

Since January, Morgan Lewis' San



Photo by Xiang Xing Zhou

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Francisco office has added partner John H. Hemann and associate Lisa Tenorio-Kutzkey, both formerly with the U.S. attorney's office in San Francisco. Immigration partners Lance Nagel and A. James Vazquez-Azpiri, both formerly with Cooley Godward, also recently joined the outpost.

Gowdy says Haratani caught the firm's eye because she's a very experienced litigator, she's well-known by the bar and she's active in San Francisco's minority and public-interest communities.

"Mostly, we expect her to be an important part of our ever-growing litigation practice in California and around the country," Gowdy says. "She is well-known as an accomplished trial lawyer — something we value around here."

Haratani spent the majority of her career at Crosby Heafey, where she worked from

1984 until 2002, when she joined Shook Hardy.

Haratani is the president-elect of the Bar Association of San Francisco and a past president of the Asian-American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area.

Shannon Spangler, managing partner of Shook Hardy's San Francisco office, says the firm typically doesn't comment about departing partners.

"I think Joan was particularly interested in Morgan Lewis' Pacific Rim practice and areas [where] we're just not [there] yet. The firm has some contacts in Japan and other places in Asia that may be a real asset in her practice," Spangler says. "It's a wonderful opportunity for Joan, and we wish her all the best at Morgan Lewis."

Shook Hardy has 502 lawyers worldwide. Morgan Lewis has 1,240 lawyers firmwide and 112 in the firm's San Francisco office.