

## Duane Morris Atty To Join Morgan Lewis IP Prosecution Team

By Britain Eakin

*Law360 (September 29, 2022, 2:02 PM EDT)* -- Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP has hired a partner from Duane Morris LLP with experience helping Fortune 100 companies manage their domestic and foreign patent portfolios who will join their technology-focused patent prosecution team in Silicon Valley, the firm announced this week.

Manita Rawat has a background in applied mathematics, computer science, aerospace engineering and statistical analysis, and joined Morgan Lewis on Sept. 26 as a partner after previously serving as the managing partner of Duane Morris' Silicon Valley office. Rawat is joined by four colleagues she worked closely with at Duane Morris — of counsel Daniel Tarr, associate Tarian Wang, patent prosecution specialist Mona Batmani, and senior paralegal Sherlin Yaghoubzadeh. Tarr, Wang, Batmani and Yaghoubzadeh will be based in Philadelphia; Washington, D.C.; Chicago; and Los Angeles, respectively.



Manita Rawat

Rawat told Law360 she was drawn to Morgan Lewis in part by two close friends who are partners there, Scott Sherwin and Brent Hawkins, and said she was persuaded to make the leap after learning about the firm's "top-shelf, strong patent prosecution practice," along with its "fantastic market position" for a large practice such as hers.

"The Silicon Valley office represents large, Fortune 100 companies and a lot of tech companies in Silicon Valley, so it has a great infrastructure to support a large-volume patent prosecution practice," Rawat said. "That's the type of practice I have, and I of course want to grow that practice, and so this became just a fantastic platform that I wanted my team and I to come to."

Many of her clients are making the move with her, with some having already transitioned in the last two weeks, Rawat said.

Some of Rawat's experience includes managing patent portfolios for a U.S. multinational retail corporation, a large U.S. multinational technology company and a defense contractor, as well as a large publicly traded software company and a large publicly traded radiation oncology treatment and software company. Rawat has prosecuted patents on artificial intelligence and machine learning, along with aerospace, turbomachine and software technology and signal processing, among other technology areas.

She also has experience supporting clients with mergers and acquisitions, investment funding, licensing agreements and intellectual property-related lawsuits and transactional matters such as structuring, negotiating and drafting agreements.

Rawat said her patent prosecution practice has ballooned since the COVID-19 pandemic hit because of the coinciding technology boom, with more people shopping online and relying on technology such as Zoom to work from home. In the last two years, Rawat said she has filed more patent applications than ever before.

With the technology landscape ever-changing, the leader of the firm's IP practice, Louis Beardell, said in a statement that the arrival of Rawat and her team is perfectly timed.

"The informed counsel of our nationwide patent prosecution lawyers is critical for businesses looking to secure their intellectual property through patent portfolios in today's constantly evolving technology marketplace," Beardell said. "The team's arrival extends the capabilities of our 200-plus team of global intellectual property lawyers, many with advanced degrees in science, engineering and mathematics."

Rawat said she and her team hope to integrate with the firm's attorneys and clients, with the goal of supporting some of the corporate deals the firm is already working on from an IP due diligence perspective, and to expand the IP practice.

Although she hasn't met many of her new colleagues yet, Rawat said she's looking forward to a firm pickup basketball game she signed up for next month, which she said will be a great opportunity to get to know some of them.

Rawat received a bachelor's of science from the University of Nevada in applied mathematics and biochemistry, and got her law degree from the University of Illinois College of Law.

--Editing by Stephen Berg.