

Morgan Lewis Adds Ropes & Gray IP Expert In DC

By Jack Rodgers

Law360 (January 8, 2026, 1:08 PM EST) -- Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP has hired a top intellectual property attorney from Ropes & Gray LLP, who led that firm's Section 337 International Trade Commission practice and spent about 12.5 years there, Morgan Lewis announced Thursday.

Matt Rizzolo has joined Morgan Lewis' intellectual property practice in Washington, D.C., as a partner, continuing his work on high-stakes litigation, patent matters and international arbitration issues. He works on unfair competition disputes, with trade secret misappropriation matters and on disputes involving IP licenses and contracts, Morgan Lewis said.



Matt Rizzolo

Rizzolo earned his law degree from the George Washington University Law School, and had a summer internship at Ropes & Gray before joining the firm after graduation in 2008. Aside from a year he spent working at Dow Lohnes PLLC in 2012, Rizzolo has spent the entirety of his legal career with Ropes & Gray.

Rizzolo told Law360 Pulse on Thursday that the collaborative culture at Morgan Lewis, and strength of the IP litigation group, motivated him to move his practice to the platform.

"I've been fortunate enough to work with the Morgan Lewis team on multiple cases in the past," Rizzolo said. "I've gone to trial with them, I've seen them in action, and I've known several of them, known outside of working directly with them, for years. And it really is a fantastic group of people with a great list of clients, and a long track record of success."

Louis Beardell Jr., Morgan Lewis' global IP practice leader, said in a statement that Rizzolo's experience working with substantial disputes before the ITC, and his depth of technical and trial experience, would broaden the capabilities of the firm's IP disputes team, at a time when clients are seeking out attorneys with similar experience.

"We're seeing an increasing trend of clients having to confront IP disputes on multiple fronts involving parallel proceedings, significant technical complexity, and global implications," Beardell said in a statement.

Rizzolo said that the trend toward international matters has been an area of increased focus for his clients over the past few years.

"[There are] these parallel, multi-jurisdictional, global disputes where, you might have an ITC action, you might have a district court action, and then you might have something in Europe, you might have multiple actions in Europe, you might have something in Brazil," he said. "So those are coming up more and more, and Morgan Lewis is extremely well-positioned to represent clients in those types of proceedings."

Rizzolo said the trend of those parallel, multi-jurisdictional global disputes has picked up in frequency in the past several years, since the formation of the European Unified Patent Court in 2023.

That is in part because the judges there have been "much more willing than a lot of courts have been in the United States," to grant injunctive relief, he said. That type of litigation is also happening now more frequently in Brazil, Rizzolo said, which had been "a hot bed as of late," for patent litigation.

That trend has been true both of non-standard essential patents, and standard essential patents, which Rizzolo highlighted had been "a really, really hot area," of litigation.

For example, a group like the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers might set standards for Wi-Fi use, to promote the use of the best technologies, which might have implications for broader litigation.

"And there what they do is, they'll have parties agree, 'Hey look, we'll allow your patent technology into the standard, but you need to agree to license it on fair, reasonable, and non-discriminatory terms,' which is a term called FRAND," Rizzolo said. "And disputes over what FRAND means, that is something that underlies a lot of these standard essential patent disputes."

For Rizzolo, the access to a bench of global, intellectual property experts was what drew him to moving his practice, he said.

Jami McKeon, Morgan Lewis' chair, said in a statement that Rizzolo's deep experience with ITC investigations and patent disputes would be a benefit to the firm's clients.

"His addition enhances our firm's ability to support clients facing complex IP litigation across multiple technologies, IP hubs, and dispute venues — helping to meet our clients' needs wherever and whenever they arise," McKeon said.

Morgan Lewis has added 19 IP litigation partners in the past 18 months. In December, the firm hired Chad E. Davis from Dechert LLP, and in September, hired a team of Knobbe Martens litigators as partners in its offices in Seattle and Orange County, California.

--Additional reporting by James Mills. Editing by Nicole Bleier.