

Morgan Lewis Adds Venable, Amazon Attys As DC Partners

By Tracey Read

Law360 (October 3, 2022, 12:43 PM EDT) -- Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP has hired an intellectual property litigator and a telecommunications infrastructure lawyer at its Washington, D.C., practice, the firm announced Monday.

Meaghan Kent joins Morgan Lewis from Venable LLP, where she served as co-chair of the IP litigation, advertising, brand and copyright group. She will continue to focus on copyright litigation and counseling.

"At Morgan Lewis, my clients will have access to a truly full-service IP practice with more than 200 practitioners and professionals worldwide," Kent told Law360 in an email. "The firm's continued investments in IP talent and robust service offerings, including in trademark and copyright litigation and counseling, ensure its clients benefit from the best of what the global legal market has to offer in this space."

Denise Wood rejoins Morgan Lewis after previously working at the firm as a senior associate from 2014 to 2019. She most recently worked at Amazon Web Services as senior corporate counsel in charge of a global team of attorneys, according to her LinkedIn profile.

"Washington, D.C., is at the heart of where so many important decisions are made that impact our clients' businesses," Wood told Law360. "Morgan Lewis has a strong presence here in the nation's capital with a deep bench of lawyers who have been at the forefront of technology and telecommunications issues, which is a tremendous asset to our clients."

Wood will focus on advising telecommunication and technology clients on regulatory and transactional matters.

"The U.S. capital is a critical market for multinational corporations given its impact reverberates across jurisdictions and industries," Morgan Lewis Chair Jami McKeon said in a statement. "Clients turn to our elite team, which now includes these two strong women leaders with proven track records in a complex sector such as technology, to help them navigate highly regulated areas."

At AWS, Wood negotiated terrestrial and subsea dark and lit fiber service agreements; indefeasible rights of use, joint build and supply agreements; and was counsel on related regulatory issues.



Meaghan Kent



Denise Wood

Andrew Lipman, leader of the firm's telecommunications, media and technology practice, said the firm was excited to have Wood back to help clients navigate the ever-changing telecommunications arena.

"We are seeing increasing interest in active submarine cable as well as wireless and satellite spaces, both areas in which Denise has extensive first-hand experience," Lipman said in a statement.

Kent has advised entertainment and media companies on anti-piracy and anti-counterfeiting policies and strategies, and software companies on copyright registration. She is also an adjunct professor of law at the George Washington University School of Law.

"Meaghan comes to us with a history of collaboration, leadership and team building," Louis Beardell Jr., leader of Morgan Lewis' intellectual property practice, said in a release. "We are focused on building out our copyright disputes and registration/counseling practice to serve our clients with lawyers as accomplished and impressive as Meaghan."

Wood began her legal career in 2012 as a Bingham McCutchen LLP associate. She graduated magna cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania with a bachelor's degree in biology/German studies and has a law degree from Georgetown University Law Center.

Kent has a bachelor's degree in microbiology, immunology and molecular genetics from the University of California, Los Angeles, and graduated from UCLA School of Law.

News of the additions comes a week after the firm announced that it had boosted its ranks with a bicoastal, five-person patent prosecution team led by partner Manita Rawat, who also focuses on technology.

Other D.C. hires this year include partner Justin Weitz, who advises on complex financial securities and procurement enforcement matters; David Plotinsky, former acting chief of the U.S. Department of Justice's foreign investment review section; and Erin Martin, who spent 13 years at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

Meanwhile, the firm announced that Todd Smith, who was most recently lead tax counsel for the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, also joined the firm Monday in London as a tax partner, focusing on U.S. and international tax matters for sovereign and other institutional investors and multinational businesses.

--Additional reporting by Rachel Rippetoe. Editing by Alyssa Miller.