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California

Patent Lawyer Will Head Milbank's IP Practice

By Maya Meinert

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LOS ANGELES — Patent litigator Mark Scarsi has joined Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy to establish and lead the firm's West Coast intellectual property practice.

Scarsi, 42, arrived Monday from O'Melveny & Myers' Los Angeles office, where he defended patent-infringement cases.

"It was a tough decision [to leave] because O'Melveny is such a great firm and a great institution ... but the opportunity to do something entrepreneurial was something I couldn't turn down," Scarsi said. "Milbank is committed to building a West Coast IP practice, and its East Coast practice is just phenomenal."

Before becoming an attorney, Scarsi spent seven years as a software engineer for Lockheed Martin, designing and developing detection and signal-processing computer systems for the U.S. Navy.

"In theory, if we could grow something in L.A. like what they have on the East Coast, Milbank will be a powerhouse in IP," he said.

Kenneth J. Baronsky, Milbank Tweed's managing partner in Los Angeles, cited Scarsi's technology background as one of the reasons for bringing him to the firm.

"Mark not only fits in with the firm's strategy of expanding our IP practice and having the capability on the ground in L.A., but he also fits with our overall strategy in expanding our litigation practice," Baronsky said, adding that the firm expects to have about a dozen IP litigators in the Los Angeles office in the near future.



ROBERT LEVINS / Daily Journal

Mark Scarsi, a patent litigator, will be heading up the West Coast intellectual property practice at Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy.

Scarsi, who graduated from Georgetown University Law Center in 1996, counts among his clients Apple Inc., Lockheed Martin Corporation, Belkin International, Inc. and Nuance Communications. He has also represented Avery Dennison, U.S. Bank, Skechers, TV Guide and Parasoft.

Though he couldn't confirm whether his clients would make the move with him, Scarsi will take Lockheed Martin to Milbank Tweed.

"It's an opportunity he felt was good for him," said John Buchanan, a spokesperson for O'Melveny. "We have a strong bench in L.A., so this won't have a strong impact on us other than we hate to lose a good lawyer and a good friend."

Scarsi said that O'Melveny treated him well, even making him a partner a year earlier than he anticipated, which made the decision a hard one.

"Leaving the O'Melveny mothership is a scary thing," Scarsi said. "But [building an IP practice] is one of those challenges you can't turn down because you don't want to regret turning down a golden opportunity."

Milbank Tweed has 550 lawyers firmwide, with 80 in Los Angeles. O'Melveny has more than 1,000 attorneys in 13 offices.

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