

McKool Smith Adds 2nd IP Litigator From Paul Hastings

By **Dave Simpson**

Law360 (July 7, 2021, 6:46 PM EDT) -- McKool Smith announced Wednesday it had hired a former Paul Hastings LLP partner in Washington, D.C., where she'll continue litigating patent issues for Fortune 500 companies and emerging tech startups in district courts, the Federal Circuit and the International Trade Commission.

Christina Ondrick, who will join as a principal, has helped companies navigate and litigate issues related to intellectual property for technologies including telecommunications, semiconductors, consumer electronics, optical communications software and hardware, and cellphone handsets, the firm said.



Christina Ondrick

She's scored early case dismissals, summary judgment victories and significant trial verdicts as a first-chair litigator on high-stakes issues, and she's also had success before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and in handling disputes involving trade secret, unfair competition and antitrust claims, the firm said.

"As a trial lawyer, I have always admired McKool Smith," Ondrick said in a statement. "When you consider the firm's reputation in the courtroom and its track record in major patent disputes, it presents a compelling opportunity for me to continue to grow my practice. I look forward to expanding the firm's profile in D.C. and working with such a talented national team of trial lawyers."

Ondrick came to Paul Hastings from McDermott Will & Emery LLP along with a group of colleagues in 2015, joining as of counsel in the D.C. office. She got her law degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and her bachelor's degree from West Virginia University.

Ondrick is at least the second intellectual property litigator McKool Smith has picked up recently from Paul Hastings. Blair M. Jacobs, who regularly defends companies like Samsung, Qualcomm and HTC in big-ticket intellectual property cases, joined the firm's D.C. office as a principal last month.

In their new roles, Jacobs and Ondrick will work alongside recent McKool Smith hires, including the former acting general counsel of the USPTO and a telecommunications litigator who was a partner at Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP for a decade before jumping ship.

"We have been very focused on expanding our intellectual property capabilities in New York and Washington, D.C., and Christina's arrival is a testament to our commitment to the D.C. market," McKool

Smith managing principal David Sochia said in a statement. "She has significant trial experience in district court and the ITC, and she really knows her way around the Federal Circuit. Christina is an excellent addition to the firm, and we're all very excited about her arrival."

--Editing by Orlando Lorenzo.

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