

Ex-USPTO GC Joins McKool Smith In Washington

By **Adrian Cruz**

Law360 (December 11, 2020, 5:16 PM EST) -- McKool Smith PC added a former acting general counsel of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to its intellectual property practice, the firm announced Friday.

Nicholas Matich will start Jan. 1 as a principal in McKool Smith's Washington, D.C., office. He told Law360 he decided to join McKool Smith because he felt the firm could offer the high-level work he wanted while at the same time being a comfortable size where he can really get to know his colleagues.



Nicholas Matich

"McKool is a very entrepreneurial place and I really enjoyed all the people I met during the interview process," Matich said. "It seemed like it was going to be a great place where I could help them grow [the] practice and build a practice of my own. I like that it does the most sophisticated trial work in the country, but it's also not an enormous place with 3,000 lawyers."

Matich said he feels collaboration is an extremely important role in IP litigation and that he looks forward to sharing knowledge from his time in government with both clients and colleagues.

"IP litigation is most definitely a team sport," Matich said. "You can't go to trial in an IP case with just one person, you can't do much of anything, so just getting to work with a broad team that brings really diverse perspectives is something I really look forward to."

Matich's practice focuses on advising clients on managing their intellectual property along with IP litigation. He also said he expects to do some appellate work.

David Sochia, managing principal at McKool Smith, said in a statement that Matich "has significant appellate and administrative law experience and will be instrumental in helping our clients navigate regulatory changes and advance their IP monetization and protection strategies."

Matich, a graduate of the University of Virginia School of Law, spent four years working in government. Along with his time at the USPTO, he was deputy general counsel at the Office of Management and Budget and worked in the White House as special assistant to the president.

While he's had a successful government career, Matich said he always planned on returning to private practice.

"It just seemed like the right time," Matich said. "I'd never planned on staying in government for the long term, I'd always planned on going back to the private sector. I was glad to get an opportunity to do public service but I was eager to go back when the opportunity arose. McKool was excited about me and it seemed like a good opportunity so I jumped on it."

--Editing by Jay Jackson Jr.

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