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LITIGATION DEPARTMENT OF THE YEAR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

LATHAM & WATKINS

Q&A **What are some of the department's most satisfying successes of the past year and why?**

Our team has been firing on all fronts across the spectrum of IP disputes and jurisdictions from coast to coast. Some of our recent successes include:

- A favorable settlement for Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) in multidistrict litigation over patents for JLR's award-winning terrain technology
- An International Trade Commission win achieving a limited exclusion order and a bond for 100% of our damages on behalf of our client Overhead Door and the Genie Company regarding wireless garage door opener technology
- A complete jury trial victory on behalf of Irving Consumer Products, a leading manufacturer of premium quality tissue products, over toilet paper patents
- A multi-million dollar trial victory for Philip Morris International against RJ Reynolds in the parties' global war over vaping patents
- A favorable settlement for Merck against a big pharma direct competitor in a patent and trade secrets dispute spanning multiple jurisdictions related to its novel vaccine Vaxneuvance, which protects against pneumonia and meningitis, among other illnesses



Ernest Yakob, Arlene Chow, Rachel Blitzer, Tony Sammi, Clem Naples. Lawyers at Latham & Watkins.

Photo: Ryland West/ALM

- A rare summary judgment of non-infringement ruling for Alpha Consolidated Holding and Illinois Tool Works (ITW) a week before a jury trial was set to begin over capless fuel system bottle design patents We've also expanded our team with the additions of Tony Sammi, a first chair trial lawyer who now serves as Global Vice Chair of the IP Litigation Practice and Global Vice Chair of the Technology Industry Group, as well as skilled IP litigator Rachel Blitzer.

A prospective client in crisis calls and asks why your team should be retained.

What is your answer? The finest technical arguments in IP litigation mean little if they cannot be presented in cogent, lucid and



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persuasive arguments—arguments that not only capture all of the technical detail necessary, but also spark passion and draw factfinders to our clients’ sides. We have a constellation of star trial lawyers who do just that. We draw on our vast technical knowledge, industry insight, and experience litigating across venues to protect our clients’ intellectual property, preserve value, and win precedent-setting victories in every type of dispute. The outstanding results we deliver regularly span multiple jurisdictions, employ creative legal strategies, and leverage Latham’s extensive resources. Further, our teams are regularly brought into disputes where other counsel have failed and, due to our technical prowess and passion for advocacy, transform a dispute where the odds appeared bleak into an outstanding victory for our client.

What traits do you respect most in opposing firms and lawyers? Creativity, drive and professionalism.

What is the firm doing to ensure that future generations of litigators are ready to take the helm? We offer a robust set of trainings—skills and substantive—for IP associates of all years. Our most junior associates go through a series of introductions to the various practices within the group, led by some of the practices’ most senior partners. As associates become more integrated in the group, they receive an annual series of trainings, taught by a combination of partners and senior associates, giving them hands on, practical instruction on the nuts and bolts of IP practice; this training covers a wide variety of topics and is updated annually. Finally, our IP associates attend an annual oral argument boot camp in which they prepare and argue a mock summary judgment motion before a panel comprised of senior IP partners. This is an opportunity to build group cohesion and ensure our associates are trial ready at the earliest possible point in their careers.