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Phone: +1 646 783 7100 | Fax: +1 646 783 7161 | customerservice@law360.com

Mintz Levin Snags Ex-Kilpatrick Townsend Patent Prosecutor

By **Kurt Orzeck**

Law360, Los Angeles (March 1, 2016, 8:44 PM ET) -- Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo PC on Tuesday said it had hired a seasoned patent prosecutor who specializes in life sciences and pharmaceuticals, and formerly worked for Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP.

William B. Kezer has joined Mintz Levin's intellectual property group as a member in the firm's San Francisco office, according to a statement on Tuesday.

Kezer advises companies on the development and management of patent portfolios, conducts due diligence reviews and evaluates patented technologies, Mintz Levin said. His practice centers on patent prosecution, with a particular focus on pharmaceutical products and small molecules such as dyes, probes and binding agents, according to his biography for the firm.



William B. Kezer

Michael T. Renaud, division head for Mintz Levin's IP section and a member of its policy committee, said in Tuesday's statement that Kezer "is a respected member of the IP legal community, has been actively involved in [American Intellectual Property Law Association] leadership and is going to be a tremendous asset to our clients, our practice and the firm."

Kezer got his BS from Humboldt State University in 1978 and his PhD from the University of California at Berkeley in 1983, according to his LinkedIn profile. He then worked as a research scientist for FMC Corp. from 1984 to 1989 and as a project leader for Dow Chemical from 1989 to 1992, the profile said.

His research was focused on the design and synthesis of small molecule regulators of biological processes, according to Mintz Levin's statement.

The following year, Kezer earned his JD with honors from Golden Gate University, according to his LinkedIn profile. He worked for 24 years as a partner at Kilpatrick Townsend, the profile said.

Kezer has background in drug development methods, formulations and drug delivery technologies, and other technology connected to the pharmaceutical industry, according to Mintz Levin.

He served as vice chair of the American Intellectual Property Law Association's Chemical Practice Committee from 2009 to 2011 and as its chair from 2011 to 2013, according to his LinkedIn profile.

In January 2015, Mintz Levin landed 18 former Edwards Wildman intellectual property attorneys for its Boston office. The hires included Peter Corless, David Conlin and Kathleen Carr, former co-chairs of Edwards Wildman's patent practice and IP groups, who were recruited to help expand Mintz Levin's patent group.

The following month, Mintz Levin bolstered its intellectual property and life sciences practices by adding Kilpatrick Townsend attorney Kenneth E. Jenkins to its San Diego office and five Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice LLP attorneys in Washington, D.C.

Bob Bodian, Mintz Levin's managing member, said in Tuesday's statement that they are about to wrap up the strongest fiscal year in the history of the firm, founded in 1933.

"That success, as well as our top-flight intellectual property practice, allows us to attract attorneys like Bill," Bodian said. "His strong client base and focus on life sciences complement our existing capabilities and will enable us to continue to grow the practice and the firm, and best serve our clients, both on the West Coast and nationally."

Paul Churchill, managing member of Mintz Levin's San Francisco office and a member of the firm's policy committee, added: "Having established a strong presence in San Francisco, we continue to look for opportunities to further enhance our practice areas with the addition of experienced attorneys, such as Bill, whose backgrounds and areas of expertise offer strategic synergies."

Churchill added that the firm expects to grow further in California amid an increased demand for sophisticated legal services.

--Additional reporting by Tom Zanki and Kelly Knaub. Editing by Stephen Berg.

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