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## Mintz Levin Nabs Ex-Dechert IP Partner In Silicon Valley

By **Dorothy Atkins**

Law360, San Francisco (January 17, 2017, 7:44 PM EST) -- Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo PC has hired a Silicon Valley veteran intellectual property trial attorney who specializes in international IP law from Dechert LLP to bolster its IP practice, the firm said Tuesday.

Stephen J. Akerley is joining Mintz Levin as a member of the firm's San Francisco office, after advising clients on a range of intellectual property matters and serving as trial counsel in federal jurisdictions across the United States, as well as serving as counsel before the International Trade Commission and international tribunals.

Akerley specializes in patent and trade secrets disputes, and has represented clients in cases involving threats of injunctive relief and hundreds of millions of dollars in claimed damages, according to Mintz Levin.

He served as lead counsel in patent infringement disputes against Hewlett-Packard that were litigated in California, Texas and Germany and resulted in a \$141 million settlement, according to Mintz Levin. Akerley also has a "perfect record" representing respondents before the International Trade Commission, obtaining invalidity or non-infringement findings in multiple investigations, Mintz Levin said.

Akerley **moved** to Dechert from O'Melveny & Myers LLP in 2011 after securing a victory for Samsung Electro-Mechanics Co. before the U.S. International Trade Commission in a patent dispute over multilayer ceramic capacitors. He also has represented Google Inc., Seagate Technologies Inc. and Telesys Software Inc. in a number of intellectual property matters, according to his profile on Dechert's website.

Akerley has an undergraduate degree in electrical engineering from Cornell University and a law degree from the University of San Francisco School of Law.

Paul Churchill, managing member of Mintz Levin's San Francisco office, said in a statement Tuesday that he is delighted to welcome Akerley to the San Francisco office. Akerley is a "first chair trial lawyer" with extraordinary experience representing many of Silicon Valley's best known companies in high-stakes IP disputes, Churchill said.

Michael Renaud, division head of Mintz Levin's IP section, said he is excited to bring a high-caliber litigator to the team. Akerley will help strengthen Mintz Levin's national bench of attorneys, he said.

Mintz Levin is a general practice, full service law firm employing more than 500 attorneys around the world, according to its website. The firm's IP team has more than 115 attorneys and technology specialists, the site says.

--Editing by Kelly Duncan.

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