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Procopio Hires 5 IP Pros To Plant Flag In Silicon Valley

By **Andrew Scurria**

Law360, New York (November 27, 2012, 5:02 PM ET) -- Procopio Cory Hargreaves & Savitch LLP has put its first boots on the ground in Silicon Valley, the firm announced Monday, adding five attorneys specializing in intellectual property management and patent prosecution from IP boutique Sughrue Mion PLLC.

The team will be the first to work exclusively out of Procopio's office in Menlo Park, Calif., which it acquired in February as an unstaffed work space for lawyers at its five other outposts.

The new hires are led by Miku H. Mehta, a former partner at Sughrue who has overseen patent applications and portfolio management for technologies including computer software, Internet applications, environmental technologies, optics, mechanical engineering and medical devices, the firm said.

Joining as senior counsel is Francis G. Plati Sr., along with associates Louis Diep, Ernest Huang and Michael C. Jones. Procopio recruited the other attorneys to join Mehta after he officially began at his new firm Oct. 22.

"We just basically wanted to establish a presence in Silicon Valley," Thomas Turner, the firm's managing partner, said Tuesday. "We've got a tremendous collection of corporate and startup clients down in the San Diego region that are, in many ways, very hungry to create contacts with Silicon Valley, which is of course the technology and [venture capitalist] capital of the universe."

The firm got a positive response from potential clients after holding various seminars and pitch meetings in that space, Turner said.

"That just really solidified the thought that we had that our value proposition may resonate particularly well in the Valley. And we had been keeping our eyes out for targeted practitioners or small groups that might be synergistic with us," he added.

In addition to his primary focus on patent applications, Mehta has also worked on due diligence projects, including preparing opinions on patentability, validity, infringement, and product clearance, as well as patent licensing transactions. He boasts several Japan-based companies as clients from his time working in Sughrue's office there.

Plati, the senior counsel, also brings an engineering background to his practice, which focuses on patent prosecution and IP portfolio management in fields including analog, digital and wireless communications; fiber optics; digital rights management; semiconductor devices; and automotive technologies.

The firm said it hopes it would be able to shop its offerings in employment law, real estate and commercial contract disputes to Silicon Valley clients, especially startups, that first turn to it for intellectual property counseling.

"Our IP group has found tremendous synergies with all aspects of the firm, first and foremost the corporate and startup practices, and that's really the primary focus of the [attorneys] who were already based in San Diego and were anxious to get into Silicon Valley," Turner said. "Similarly for Miku, he sees terrific opportunities for cross-selling all different kinds of services to his clients who are very loyal to him."

On Nov. 2, Procopio announced that it had landed three IP litigators in San Diego — Raymond K. Chan; Dave Deonarine, who joined as senior counsel; and associate Victor Sai.

--Editing by Shannon Henson and Eydie Cubarrubia.

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