



Disputes promotions dominate Kirkland's class of 2018

Angela Bilbow - 04 October, 2018

As the US partner promotion season kicks off, Chicago-headquartered Kirkland & Ellis has produced another record-breaking round, with 122 lawyers making partner across 13 offices.

Of the 122 new lawyers who became partners at **Kirkland & Ellis** this week, 40 have contentious practices spanning the firm's antitrust and competition, general litigation, intellectual property (IP) litigation, restructuring and appellate litigation groups, with 33% of the 122 total accounting for female promotions.

This year's partner class set another new record for Kirkland, which last year had its largest promotions round at a total of 97, 33 of which were on the disputes side.

Speaking to *CDR*, **Mark Filip**, a member of Kirkland's global management committee and head of the government enforcement and internal investigations group, says: "One consistent building block of Kirkland's growth is our commitment to recruit and train great young lawyers, and to give them opportunities and support to succeed. This latest class of litigation partners is another chapter in that long history, and we look forward to seeing this diverse group of lawyers rise to the top of the profession."

With 14 new partners, Chicago saw the largest number of promotions of those with contentious practices, including IP litigators **Kourtney Baltzer, Billy Foster** and **Greg Polins**. **Jeffrey Bramson, Britt Cramer, Bobby Earles, Kathryn Guilfoyle, Dan Monico, Brett Nerad, Ravi Shankar, Karl Stampfl, Jonathan Tshiamala, Nicholas Wasdin** and **Eric White** all have general litigation practices.

New York saw seven new partners: IP litigators **Sam Kwon** and **Aaron Resetarits**, antitrust and competition lawyer **Christina Shin**, and commercial litigators **Carrie Bodner, Terence Leong, Michelle Six** and **Ian Spain**.

All of those promoted in Washington, DC, have contentious practices: appellate litigators **Kasdin Miller Mitchell** and **Harker Rhodes IV**, commercial litigators **Devin Anderson, Ronald Anguas, Kathleen Brogan, Tracie Bryant** and **Christopher Maner**, and IP litigator **Abigail Lauer**.

On the West Coast, IP litigator **Amir Freund** was the sole disputes promotion in the Palo Alto office, while three were promoted in San Francisco: commercial litigator **Jacob Johnston** and IP litigators **Reza Dokhanchy** and **Kristen Reichenbach**. In Los Angeles, IP litigator **Kevin Bendix** made the partnership alongside commercial litigators **Gavin Campbell, Austin Norris** and **Benjamin Maxwell Sadun**.

The remaining US disputes promotion was that of litigator **Sarah Williams** in Houston, Texas, with no new disputes partners



added to the firm's newly launched Dallas office, which saw one promoted with a transactional practice.

Elsewhere, **Mike Robert-Smith** was promoted in London with a practice focused on antitrust and competition, including **European Commission** investigations and disputes, and **Tarun Warriar** made partner in Hong Kong with a practice covering both the contentious and non-contentious aspects of restructuring.

Lateral hires to the firm slowed down in 2018 compared with 2017, when a team of six white-collar partners, who joined from **Ropes & Gray**, were among some key hires last year that included antitrust litigator **Carla Hine** arriving in Washington from **McDermott Will & Emery**, and the City of Chicago's former top lawyer **Chris Patton** re-joining the Chicago office.

This year, energy partner **Robert Fleishman** was recruited in Washington from **Morrison & Foerster** in July, and **Cravath, Swaine & Moore's** **Sandra Goldstein** and **Stefan Atkinson** joined in New York in May. **Clifford Chance's** **Richard Sharpe** joined as a partner in Hong Kong in February.