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Dickinson Wright Pulls In IP Atty From Steptoe

By **Parker Quinlan**

Law360 (February 23, 2024, 5:32 PM EST) -- Dickinson Wright PLLC continues to expand its intellectual property team, adding a new member to its Chicago office from Steptoe LLP.

Tron Fu, an intellectual property expert and tech entrepreneur, joined Dickinson after just over five years at Steptoe and will focus on patent, trademark, copyright infringement and trade secrets litigation across multiple industry sectors, including e-commerce, mechanical devices, and consumer products, Dickinson said in a Thursday statement.

Fu has worked as a software developer in addition to his legal work, serving as the president of web application design company Riverwatcher Studios since 1999, according to his LinkedIn profile. Riverwatcher provides web development services as well as custom mobile app development, its website said.



Tron Fu

While at Steptoe, Fu represented technology companies like Chinese radio manufacturer Hytera in a suit over allegations that the company poached senior engineers from rival Motorola that allowed it to copy a two-way radio design. A federal jury in Illinois awarded \$764 million in favor of Motorola in February 2020, finding the Chinese company had misappropriated trade secrets by hiring the ex-Motorola engineers.

An appeal is pending before the Seventh Circuit over whether a lower court judge correctly calculated the foreign radio sales when determining the judgment amount.

Fu also assisted tech company Express Mobile in bringing claims that website hosting platform GoDaddy violated three patents related to website generation. In March, a federal jury found Express Mobile did not show GoDaddy infringed claims in three patents, but it also refused to invalidate the challenged claims.

In addition, Fu represented Express Mobile in a successful \$40 million patent infringement suit against Canadian online retail giant Shopify Inc. A federal jury found in September 2022 that Shopify had infringed Express Mobile's patents on website generation following a five-day trial.

Fu earned a law degree from the University of Illinois College of Law in 2012, received an MBA from the University of Chicago in 2003 and obtained a bachelor's in computer science from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in 1993, according to his LinkedIn profile.

--Editing by Emily Kokoll.

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