

Cahill Gordon Adds Life Science IP Leader From White & Case

By Kelly Lienhard

Law360 (January 24, 2024, 2:23 PM EST) -- Cahill Gordon & Reindel LLP has picked up a partner and co-chair for the firm's life sciences patent litigation and intellectual property litigation practices, bringing with him 30 years of experience working with some of the biggest names in pharmaceuticals and biotechnology, the firm said Wednesday.

Peter Armenio, who is coming from White & Case LLP, will focus his practice on patent litigation, specifically on issues involving pharmaceuticals, biologics, medical devices, and DNA diagnostic and sequencing technologies, according to Cahill Gordon.

There were a number of features that drew Armenio to Cahill Gordon, he told Law360, including a century-long tradition of excellence in both litigation and trial practice and a focus on working to solve complicated issues for clients.

"This is a firm dedicated to excellent lawyering, and that's the top measure above all and very much attracted me," Armenio said. "The firm is focused on producing great work for important clients on difficult, complicated matters and minimizing bureaucracy and minimizing the things that don't lead to good results for clients on their biggest cases. This was, to me, a perfect fit."

Armenio was most recently a partner at White & Case, but also spent time as a partner at Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP and Kirkland & Ellis LLP.

Armenio said he knew he was ready to make a career move based on what his clients wanted and where he was most comfortable practicing. He said the high-level work and the lack of conflicts pulled him to Cahill Gordon.

"I look at this environment that has many fewer conflicts and is much more focused on representing clients across all of their needs in a largely conflict-free environment," Armenio said. "That, to me, made a lot of sense for my clients."

At Cahill Gordon, Armenio is also joining an old friend and former colleague from Kirkland, Gerald Flattmann, who joined the firm as a partner in January 2023. He is co-leading the firm's life sciences patent litigation and IP litigation groups with Armenio.

"Peter is one of the best known and most sought-after litigators in the patent litigation space,



Peter J. Armenio

particularly in the life sciences space," Flattmann told Law360. "We're thrilled to have been able to reunite the band."

Flattmann said he has experience sitting next to Armenio at the counsel table, specifically highlighting a win they achieved together in favor of Forest Labs back in the aughts that protected six years of life for its Lexapro patents, which were worth about \$12 billion to the company.

Some of Armenio's other clients over the years have included Karuna Therapeutics, Otsuka, Johnson & Johnson, Gilead and BlephEx.

"We built together an all-star life sciences patent litigation team in the 2000s at Kirkland, and we want to do that again and be part of something special like that again at this point in our careers," Flattmann added.

Looking ahead, Armenio told Law360 that IP cases in the life sciences space are only going to get bigger and more important, as companies develop more complicated molecules to treat difficult conditions.

This will lead to increasing litigation in the space, according to Armenio, which will demand high-level expertise from practitioners experienced in the courtroom and who can explain difficult scientific concepts to judges and juries.

Cahill Gordon's IP practice is expected to continue to grow, as well, both Armenio and Flattmann said.

"My expectation is fully to continue a high-level IP litigation and life science litigation practice, both with great clients who are already here at Cahill and with additional clients who are not here yet," Armenio said. "I think you'll see good growth out of our practice, in the client base, in the partner offerings, and then the group offerings overall."

Flattmann added: "We have great expectations, but we think they're realistic."

Armenio received his law degree from Seton Hall University School of Law and his undergraduate degree in chemistry from Bucknell University.

--Editing by Nicole Bleier.