

White & Case Loses Another IP Partner To Cahill Gordon

By Kelly Lienhard

Law360 (January 29, 2024, 3:25 PM EST) -- Another intellectual property partner has left White & Case LLP for Cahill Gordon & Reindel LLP, the firm said Monday, as Colleen Tracy James joins her former colleague Peter Armenio as co-chair of Cahill Gordon's life sciences patent litigation practice.

James is joining the firm's New York office. She brings over two decades of experience in federal court litigation — including handling proceedings at the U.S. International Trade Commission and the U.S. Patent Trial and Appeal Board, as well as counseling clients on IP-related business decisions — to her pharmaceutical-focused practice at Cahill Gordon.

James' arrival comes less than a week after a move by Armenio, who joined his old friend and former colleague from Kirkland & Ellis LLP, Gerald Flattmann, as co-chair for the firm's life sciences patent litigation and IP litigation practices.

James told Law360 on Monday that it was a no-brainer to join Armenio and Flattmann in New York and form a so-called life sciences dream team, saying that among the three of them, the firm can handle all facets of a pharma company's IP needs.

"There's really nothing we can't cover and nothing we can't do when it comes to the needs of our pharmaceutical life sciences clients," James said. "It's quite exciting to embark on this new adventure."

Flattmann added that James' approach to her practice is consistent with the way things are done at Cahill Gordon, pointing out that clients have complimented her success in the courts as well as her business-driven client approach.

"We don't just grow to grow here at Cahill. We believe in smart growth, and Colleen joining us is a perfect example of that," Flattmann told Law360. "I think together, we are going to be a very potent force to be reckoned with."

The new position was the right move for many reasons, James said, but she highlighted the leadership opportunity offered in a field where women are not often present.

"As a woman in this field, it's really important to me to leave the profession in a better state for women than when I arrived, and so a constant for me is what will help promote women across the profession in IP law," James said. "The opportunity to be parallel on the same level as a co-chair with Gerald and Peter



Colleen Tracy James

is an opportunity for me as a woman that I couldn't pass up."

Prior to her time at White & Case, James also worked as a partner at Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP and Mayer Brown LLP, representing several big-name pharmaceutical companies.

At Quinn Emanuel, James was on the team that litigated Johnson & Johnson unit Janssen Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s legal battle to maintain its monopoly on a Type 2 diabetes drug it sells called Invokana, and at Mayer Brown, she represented Gilead Sciences Inc. in its bid to block an attempt to market drugs that would compete with the HIV treatment it sells under the brand name Complera.

Before jumping into the BigLaw world, James spent 15 years at Fitzpatrick Cella Harper & Scinto, a New York IP boutique that was acquired by Venable LLP in 2018.

Her work there also focused on fending off generic challengers of big-name drug brands, maintaining AstraZeneca PLC's hold on its heartburn drug Prilosec and Sanofi-Aventis' grip on the advanced colon cancer medicine Eloxatin.

James told Law360 that she's passionate about continuing to work with pharmaceutical companies and protecting their important medicines.

"It's been the focus of my career since I started practicing IP law, and it's really fundamental to me because it's an exciting area, and I really do love devoting my professional career to helping pharmaceutical companies defend their innovative medicines. ... They bring medicines that improve the lives of many people across the world," James said.

James said she expects to see and work with a lot of new innovations and technologies in the life sciences industry in the future.

"We're always on the cutting edge of new technologies as they come out and are able to immerse ourselves in them, understand [them] and be able to communicate [them], whether it's to a judge or jury or to the business side," James said.

James received her law degree from Seton Hall University School of Law and her undergraduate degree from Manhattan College.

--Additional reporting by Emma Cueto, Dani Kass and Andrew Karpan. Editing by Scott Russell.
