

Morgan Lewis Grows German Presence With 3 New Partners

By Tracey Read

Law360 (July 29, 2024, 3:02 PM EDT) -- Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP announced Monday that it has hired three new partners to further strengthen its German offerings.

Intellectual property lawyers Alexander Klett and Christoph Mikyska were hired from Reed Smith LLP and will be based in Munich. Private equity lawyer Sebastian Dexheimer, who is set to arrive Aug. 1 from Milbank LLP, will be located in Frankfurt.

"Having previously worked alongside several of Morgan Lewis's IP lawyers, I know full well the team's strength, skill, and knowledge and how they apply those capabilities in advocating for clients," Klett told Law360 Pulse in an email. "Combined with the ability to continue to work with several longstanding clients that I happen to share with the firm and the opportunity to collaborate across the firm's impressive global platform, joining Morgan Lewis was an appealing move."

Klett, who began his new role Monday and will be joined at a later date by Mikyska, will continue to advise on nontechnical IP litigation as well as contentious and transactional IP law.

Meanwhile, Dexheimer will counsel national and international corporations and private equity investors on German and cross-border transactions, with a particular concentration in the technology and software sectors.

"This is an exciting time for our German offices. We have been in growth mode — especially in the last 18 months since we established our second office in Munich," Florian Harder, managing partner of the firm's Munich office, said in a statement.

Klett's practice focuses on nontechnical IP litigation. He regularly represents clients in major proceedings before the German and European authorities and courts. Klett also advises clients on an ongoing basis in the areas of trademarks, designs, copyright and unfair competition.

Mikyska represents clients on trademark, design and copyright law as well as unfair competition law. He represents clients in disputes before the trademark offices and courts and has been involved in several landmark proceedings in trademark and copyright law before the higher regional courts and the Federal



Alexander Klett



Christoph Mikyska



Sebastian Dexheimer

Supreme Court. He also advises on the registration of intellectual property rights, portfolio management, trademark strategies and licensing issues.

Dexheimer advises private equity investors and corporate clients on German and cross-border transactions across industries. He represents clients both on the buy side and the sell side as well as on co-investments and management participations.

Klett had been a partner at Reed Smith for over 16 years. Before that, he was a lawyer and then assistant partner at Gleiss Lutz and an attorney at Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP, according to his LinkedIn profile. Klett has law degrees from the University of Passau, University of Lausanne and the University of Tübingen; a Master of Laws from the University of Iowa College of Law, and a Ph.D. from the University of Tübingen, according to his firm biography.

Mikyska spent over six years at Reed Smith, joining in 2018 as a senior associate. Prior to that, he was an associate at TALIENS and Olswang (now CMS), his LinkedIn states. Mikyska has law degrees from the University of Passau and Heidelberg University, a Ph.D. from Heidelberg and a Master of Laws from the University of San Francisco School of Law.

When contacted for comment on the exits, a Reed Smith spokesperson told Law360 Pulse: "I can confirm that Alex Klett has left the firm. We wish him well for the future."

Dexheimer worked at Milbank for over five years, most recently as a special counsel. He's also been an associate at Allen & Overy. He is a graduate of Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, his LinkedIn states.

Firm chair Jami McKeon said in a statement that Germany is a very important market for Morgan Lewis' clients.

"From safeguarding clients' brands and images to identifying investment opportunities in new and emerging assets, the combined depth of experience from this dynamic trio aligns with our industry-first approach and will greatly enhance our client service delivery in Germany and across Europe," McKeon said.

The firm's other German partner additions in recent months include Daja Apetz-Dreier, the former Munich office managing partner of Reed Smith, who has been leading Morgan Lewis' expanding global disputes practice since April.

In February, employment partner Philipp Schäuble arrived from McDermott Will & Emery LLP, while corporate partners Hans 'Peter' Leube and Marianne Nawroth joined the firm's Frankfurt office in December, the firm said.

--Editing by Patrick Reagan.