



THINK FORWARD

Brinks Gilson & Lione Adds Four Associates in Chicago and DC

September 25, 2015

CHICAGO—Four attorneys have joined intellectual property law firm Brinks Gilson & Lione as associates this month, as the firm continues to add talent, maintaining its position as one of the nation's largest IP boutiques. Attorneys [Gang Chen](#), Ph.D., [Jafon Fearson](#), and Oluwafemi L. Masha will be based in Chicago, and [John Pani](#) in Washington.

"Brinks Gilson & Lione's client base continues to grow. Several large U.S. and foreign companies have turned to Brinks this year, and are sending us substantial new work. We expect that demand for intellectual property legal services will continue to grow globally," said [James R. Sobieraj](#), Brinks' president.

The announcement follows Brinks' hiring of eight experienced intellectual property law professionals in Chicago, Durham, N.C., and Washington in recent weeks, as the firm positions itself for growth in key markets and to meet its increasing volume of client work on intellectual property matters.

"We welcome all these highly qualified attorneys, whose diverse backgrounds and credentials in the sciences and the law will be an asset to Brinks and to our clients," added Sobieraj. "Brinks is actively seeking talented and diverse lawyers and patent agents with experience in the types of scientific research and development that our clients are engaged in."

Brinks Gilson & Lione has been ranked in the top 20 patent firms in the nation for patent prosecution for 12 years in a row, according to data compiled by *Intellectual Property Today*. In 2014, the last year for which figures are available, Brinks attorneys obtained 2,030 U.S. patents on behalf of clients, representing a growth rate of 40% in four years. Brinks also maintains an active practice in patent litigation.

Moreover, Brinks' work in trademark matters has received top honors for five years in a row from *World Trademark Review 1000*—The World's Leading Trademark Professionals. The firm also handles copyright, trade dress and trade secret cases and matters.

The new associates include:

[Gang Chen](#), Ph.D.

Dr. Chen is a physicist who holds 15 patents globally, and he is a patent agent registered with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). During a 13-year tenure at telecommunications equipment company Alcatel-Lucent, Dr. Chen worked as a senior segment manager in the intellectual property business group, uncovering valuable patents in a large portfolio, developing licensing opportunities, providing technical support for patent litigation, and drafting applications. For the company's Bell Labs subsidiary, he conducted original research in semiconductor optical physics, nanotechnologies, and

telecommunications. Chen graduated *magna cum laude* in 2015 with a J.D. from Seton Hall University School of Law, where he was a member of national honor society Order of the Coif and received the Chancellor's Scholarship. He holds a Ph.D. in physics and an M.S. in electrical engineering and physics from the University of Michigan, as well as a B.S. in physics from Beijing University. Chen speaks Mandarin Chinese fluently and has authored more than 100 articles for journal and conference publications.

Jafon Fearson

Mr. Fearson earned his J.D. in 2015 at the University of Missouri School of Law, where he was the recipient of multiple scholarships and awards, and served as president of the Association of Intellectual Property and Entertainment Law and academic chair of the Black Law Students Association. While in law school, he worked as a research assistant to Professor Dennis Crouch, investigating the concepts of unpatentable "abstract ideas" and the "reasonable certainty" standard, and co-authoring an article for the ABA's *Preview of United States Supreme Court Cases*. Fearson also gained technical experience as a summer intern at St. Louis chemical and biochemical maker Sigma-Aldrich, where he drafted licensing agreements and analyzed biosimilar and generic drug applications under the Biologics Price Competition and Innovation Act (BPCIA) and the Hatch-Waxman Act. He holds a B.S. in biomedical engineering from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Oluwafemi Masha

Mr. Masha's previous professional experience combines roles in patent law and the research sciences. While in law school, he worked as a patent examiner at the USPTO, where he reviewed applications, including from foreign patent offices, and determined the claimed scope of protection, researched relevant technologies, and composed Office actions on patentability. Masha also served as a judicial intern to Chief Judge Randall R. Rader at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, where he prepared bench memos for patent appeals and provided recommendations for claim construction in cases involving electronic and telecommunications products. Prior to embarking on a legal career, Masha worked as a chemist at Corn Products International, and was a lead researcher in the Alexander Scheeline Chemistry Research Group. He earned his J.D. in 2015 from The George Washington University Law School, where he was a recipient of the Anthony L. Lapinkas Memorial Endowed Scholarship and the Law School Achievement Scholarship, and a three-time recipient of the Sidney B. Williams Intellectual Property Scholarship. Masha earned a B.S. in chemistry with distinction honors from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

John Pani

Mr. Pani understands patent prosecution from the viewpoint of a patent examiner at the USPTO, having served as one for nearly a decade. In that role, he evaluated patent applications for medical diagnostic technologies from initial overview through allowance, searching for prior art and interviewing applicants under the principles of compact prosecution. Prior to that, Pani held research and teaching positions in the Bioengineering Department and the Cardiovascular Dynamics Laboratory at the University of Pittsburgh. He earned his J.D. with honors in 2015 from The George Washington University Law School, where he also received the Chris Bartok Memorial Award in Patent Law and was a three-time George Washington Scholar, and graduated *magna cum laude* with a B.S. in bioengineering from the University of Pittsburgh, where he was a recipient of the Honors College Chancellor's Nominee Scholarship and the Elmer J. and Charlotte Kidney Endowed Scholarship for Academic Achievement.

Brinks Gilson & Lione

The attorneys, scientific advisors and patent agents at Brinks Gilson & Lione focus their practice in the field of intellectual property, making Brinks one of the largest intellectual property law firms in the U.S. Clients around the world rely on Brinks to help them protect and enforce their intellectual property rights. Brinks attorneys provide counseling in all aspects of patent, trademark, unfair competition, trade secret and copyright law. More information is available at www.brinksgilson.com.