

Covington Hires Ex-Wilson Sonsini Tech Deals Pro

By **Dorothy Atkins**

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Covington & Burling LLP said it has bolstered its technology transactions practice in Silicon Valley with the hire of a former longtime Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati partner who has advised on intellectual property matters in multiple billion-dollar transactions.

Suzanne Y. Bell joins Covington as a partner, the firm said in its April 12 release. She has focused her practice on cutting-edge tech issues involving artificial intelligence, big data, blockchain, financial technology, digital health, autonomous vehicles and the internet of things — where devices are linked up to the same network. She also specializes in advising clients on IP issues that arise in mergers and acquisitions, capital markets, and venture capital transactions, the firm said.



Suzanne Bell

In her nearly 30 years at Wilson Sonsini, Bell advised a variety of companies in emerging areas of technology on intellectual property, licensing and contract issues, according to the release. Bell said she is excited to join Covington and looks forward to helping it build its tech practice and advise clients on incorporating new technologies into their businesses.

“The firm’s collaborative approach will allow me to work hand-in-hand with lawyers across the firm’s various offices and practices,” Bell said in the release.

Some of the big-ticket deals Bell has worked on include counseling marketing software company Marketo Inc. in Vista Equity Partners’ \$1.79 billion, all-cash acquisition and helping a team that advised videoconferencing equipment maker Polycom Inc. in its \$2 billion sale to private equity firm Siris Capital Group LLC. Her past clients have also included Salesforce.com Inc., video game giant Electronic Arts Inc., data networking solutions provider Aruba Networks Inc. and information technology company Riverbed Technology Inc.

Tom DeFilipps, the West Coast chair of Covington’s corporate practice, said Bell’s deep understanding of what drives tech companies will be a tremendous asset to the firm as it builds its transaction practice.

“Her experience advising many of Silicon Valley’s leading technology companies over two decades in their most strategically important matters will be a valuable resource to our clients, both existing and

new,” DeFilipps said in the release.

Bell earned a law degree from Stanford Law School and an undergraduate degree from Middlebury College. Before law school, Bell worked as an engineer, and she holds a master’s degree in engineering from Columbia University, according to Covington.

Since being founded in 1919, the firm has grown to include more than 1,000 lawyers in offices around the world, Covington said.

--Editing by Edrienne Su.

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