

Covington Snags Ex-Wilson Sonsini Tech M&A Pro In Calif.

By **Mike LaSusa**

Law360 (February 13, 2019, 7:20 PM EST) -- Covington & Burling LLP has added a mergers and acquisitions specialist from Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati PC to boost Covington's tech-related M&A practice as a partner in the San Francisco office.

Denny Kwon brings with him extensive experience in the M&A field, including in the international arena, Covington said, adding that Kwon's background and skill set will allow the firm to take advantage of an increased interest in M&A on the part of technology companies.

"Denny will greatly enhance our Northern California corporate offering and our ability to further develop M&A and broader corporate relationships with West Coast-based technology and life sciences clients," the West Coast chair of Covington's corporate practice, Tom DeFilipps, said in a statement.

Kwon told Law360 that his favorite part of working in the technology and life sciences M&A space is helping clients navigate the complex matters.

"An acquisition of technology, products or people requires an organization to think through numerous issues, and I am always thrilled when I can solve those issues for my clients," Kwon said.

Before joining Covington, Kwon worked at Wilson Sonsini for more than a decade, starting as special counsel in 2008 and becoming a partner in 2011, according to online biographical information. Along the way, he handled some major M&A matters.

He was on the team that helped guide Pharmacyclics Inc., the producer of the blood cancer treatment Imbruvica, in its \$21 billion sale in 2015 to drugmaker AbbVie Inc.

Kwon also worked on the \$3.7 billion sale in 2017 of business software company AppDynamics Inc. to Cisco Systems Inc.

Experts told Law360 at the time that the deal underscored the powerful lure of sales versus IPOs for tech industry startups, due to the volatility of the public market.

In addition, Kwon represented semiconductor giant Micron Technology Inc. in its \$1.27 billion acquisition of memory technology maker Numonyx Holdings BV, and chipmaker MaxLinear in its \$661.6 million purchase of Exar Corp. He also worked on the \$213 million sale of SenoRx Inc., a breast cancer

medical device maker, to medical technology manufacturer C.R. Bard Inc., as well as online food-ordering service Eat24's \$134 million sale to Yelp Inc.

Kwon said in a statement that Covington's "reputation for excellence, and collegial atmosphere, as well as the firm's focus on expanding its Northern California presence" all played into his decision to join the firm.

"I look forward to working with my colleagues to help drive the buy-side M&A practice with both technology and life sciences companies," he said.

Before joining Wilson Sonsini, Kwon worked as an associate at Paul Weiss Rifkind Wharton & Garrison LLP, according to his LinkedIn page. He graduated from New York University School of Law.

--Additional reporting by Tom Zanki and Kat Greene. Editing by Orlando Lorenzo.