

CORRECTED: 6 Ex-Mintz Levin Attys To Expand Cooley Life Sciences IP Team

By **Jessica Corso**

Law360, New York (April 02, 2014, 3:39 PM ET) -- Cooley LLP has picked up six former Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo PC partners, including Mintz's former intellectual property co-chair, to bolster its life sciences IP teams working out of the firm's New York and Boston offices, the firm said Wednesday.

Former co-chair Ivor R. Elrifi and partner Heidi A. Erlacher will lead four other former Mintz partners in the expansion of a life sciences team within Cooley's existing IP practice, Cooley said.

Elrifi said it was just the right time to for him and Erlacher to make the move.

"These are extremely exciting times in life sciences, as innovative services and therapies are increasingly coming to market. As traditional boundaries in science and technology are broken, it's wonderful to join such a strong, ambitious and comprehensive practice at Cooley," he said in a press release.

Both partners have served Mintz for more than 15 years as counsel to life sciences companies on patent enforcement and litigation strategies.

Outside of his work with Mintz, Elrifi served as general counsel and vice president to stem cell research company CytoTherapeutics Inc. Before that, he received a doctorate in biology from Queens University before going on to obtain his law degree from Osgoode Hall Law School.

For her part, Erlacher is a member of the American Intellectual Property Law Association and the Boston Patent Law Association and has a doctorate in chemistry from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a law degree from Suffolk University. She specializes in advising chemistry and biochemistry companies on patent enforceability and prosecution.

Wednesday's hirings are the latest push by Cooley to expand its IP practice, with former Foley & Lardner LLP partner Joseph Teja Jr. having joined the firm in Boston last year as a partner focused on electronic and technology IP. The firm also scooped up boutique firm Dow Lohnes PLLC early this year in order to strengthen its regulatory expertise in media and communications law.

--Editing by Kat Laskowski.

Correction: An earlier story incorrectly reported that the life sciences team was new and incorrectly identified the reasons for the Dow Lohnes merger. The errors have been corrected.

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