

Office Snapshot: Wilson Sonsini's Delaware Digs

By **Rose Krebs**

Law360 (August 17, 2022, 3:12 PM EDT) -- Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati PC's Delaware roster now stands at more than 30 attorneys, including two ex-Chancery Court judges, with its lawyers in the First State focusing on corporate governance, Delaware General Corporation Law and litigation matters.

The firm opened its main Delaware office in Wilmington in 2014, following the 2011 launch of a small office in Georgetown after former Chancellor William B. Chandler III joined Wilson Sonsini as a partner. Chandler came to the firm after having served more than 20 years on the Chancery Court bench, including more than a decade as chancellor. He was also previously a judge on Delaware's Superior Court.

"Our office has over 30 lawyers who are Delaware law specialists, but we are also deeply interwoven into our firm — which operates internationally — and the firm's client base," partner Amy L. Simmerman, one of Wilson Sonsini's leaders in Delaware, told Law360 Pulse in an email.

"We provide our clients with the Delaware expertise they need, but always in a way that is accessible, responsive, and in keeping with the firm's long tradition of being a trusted adviser to clients," Simmerman said. "This allows us to practice in a rich manner, both as Delaware lawyers and as Wilson Sonsini lawyers."

Simmerman said Wilson Sonsini's Delaware attorneys also pride themselves on being part of a "culture in which we are all kind to each other and take care of each other."

Legal services offered by Wilson Sonsini's Delaware attorneys include representing "public and private companies, boards, board committees, and investors in Delaware law and corporate governance matters," according to the firm.

Wilson Sonsini said its Delaware roster includes attorneys experienced in conducting investigations on behalf of management, boards of directors and special board committees, and representing companies in stockholder litigation, class actions, merger-related disputes and other matters.

The firm said it has attorneys in Delaware who "provide strategic legal advice to clients throughout the life cycle of a company."

Some attorneys in Delaware focus on representing parties in patent and intellectual property litigation, the firm added.

THE LEADERS

Simmerman, a partner based in the Wilmington office, is a leader of Wilson Sonsini's corporate governance practice. She focuses her practice on "providing advice on all aspects of Delaware corporate law and related corporate governance issues, including fiduciary duties, mergers and acquisitions, stockholder activism, corporate formation, stock issuances, preferred stock investments, and various statutory matters," according to the firm.



Amy L. Simmerman and Brad Sorrels

Partner Brad Sorrels, another of Wilson Sonsini's leaders in Delaware, is co-chair of Wilson Sonsini's governance litigation practice group. An experienced Chancery Court litigator, Sorrels advises public and private companies on aspects of Delaware corporate law and corporate governance, the firm's website said. He also represents companies, officers and directors in mergers and acquisitions litigation, stockholder derivative and class actions, and complex commercial litigation, the firm said.

THE LOCATION

Wilson Sonsini opened its Wilmington office in 2014. It is located in Suite 800 at 222 Delaware Ave. The firm also has a small office in Georgetown, which opened in 2011 and is at 8 W. Laurel St.

THE TEAM

39 TOTAL EMPLOYEES

8 shareholders/partners

6 of counsel/senior counsel

17 associates

8 business staffers

THE WORK

Among the firm's recent work, Wilson Sonsini said its corporate and litigation teams in Delaware have advised Twitter regarding its proposed transaction with Elon Musk. Sorrels is on a counsel team representing the social media giant in its litigation seeking to force the Tesla CEO to close on a \$44 billion deal to buy the company.

The corporate team in Delaware also represented pharmaceutical information technology business Veeva Systems Inc. and pharmaceutical company United Therapeutics Corp. in their conversions to a public benefit corporation organizational structure, the firm said.

PBCs are for-profit corporations subject to certain requirements that are "intended to produce a public benefit or public benefits and to operate in a responsible and sustainable manner," according to Delaware General Corporation Law.

Wilson Sonsini said its Delaware corporate team's recent work included representation of: a special committee of the fintech company GreenSky's board regarding the company's \$2.2 billion sale to Goldman Sachs; online fundraiser GoFundMe in its all-equity acquisition of fundraising software company Classy; video game developer Bungie in its \$3.6 billion sale to a Sony unit; and video game maker Zynga in its \$12.7 billion sale to fellow gaming giant Take-Two Interactive.

Wilson Sonsini said its litigation team secured a post-trial win in Chancery Court last year for medical device maker BardyDx that ordered medical technology company Hillrom to finalize its \$375 million acquisition of the company.

Also, Wilson Sonsini highlighted its litigation team's recent work representing special litigation committees of online travel giant Expedia and global cannabis company Tilray Inc. in investigating stockholder derivative claims lodged in Chancery Court, and data security business Palantir Technologies Inc. in Chancery Court litigation that had challenged its capital structure.

The firm's corporate and litigation teams also represented The Trade Desk Inc.'s co-founder Jeff Green in Chancery Court litigation dismissed last month that had challenged an amendment to the digital advertising technology company's certificate of incorporation dealing with a dual-class stock structure.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Former Delaware Vice Chancellor Joseph R. Slight III joined Wilson Sonsini's litigation department this month as a partner in Wilmington. The former vice chancellor will focus his practice on corporate governance matters. He spoke with Law360 Pulse about his reasons for continuing his legal career at Wilson Sonsini and reflected on his time as a judge on Chancery Court and Superior Court.

Retired Delaware Supreme Court Justice Randy J. Holland, who was senior of counsel at Wilson Sonsini in Delaware, died March 15. Holland joined Wilson Sonsini in 2017, after serving as a justice for more than 30 years. He was the youngest person appointed to the state's high court and its longest-serving justice.

Last year, former Wilson Sonsini partner Lori W. Will was sworn in on Delaware's esteemed Chancery Court after being nominated for a 12-year term by Gov. John Carney. Vice Chancellor Will became the Chancery Court's fifth female judge in its 230-year history.

Another former Wilson Sonsini partner, Delaware Supreme Court Justice Tamika R. Montgomery-Reeves, was nominated in June by President Joe Biden for a seat on the Third Circuit. A key mentor and others told Law360 after her nomination that she is well-suited for the Third Circuit bench.

Justice Montgomery-Reeves served on the Chancery Court for four years before taking a seat on the Supreme Court's bench in 2019. She is the first African American to serve on Delaware's Supreme Court and was also the first African American, and the second woman, to serve on the Chancery Court when she was sworn in.

--Editing by Alex Hubbard.