

IP Duo Returns To Bracewell In Austin From Pillsbury

By **Michelle Casady**

Law360 (December 9, 2019, 4:36 PM EST) -- Two former Bracewell LLP intellectual property partners have returned to the firm's Austin, Texas, office after five and four years, respectively, at Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP, the firm announced on Monday.

Michael Chibib practiced at Pillsbury for five years while colleague Conor M. Civins was there for four years. They told Law360 Monday that considering the close working relationship they had during their first stint at the firm with former intellectual property attorney Alan Albright, who now sits on the federal bench in the Western District of Texas, and the litigation platform Bracewell offers, it felt like the right time to return to the firm.

"As a former patent litigator [Judge Albright] has implemented patent-specific rules that seem like it will make litigating patent disputes in Waco ... very favorable," Chibib said. "Our clients in particular want us to be focused on that venue [and] we feel like we will get some business benefit for having worked with Judge Albright in the past."

Chibib, who also served for six years as a general counsel at an alternative energy company, focuses his practice on representing clients in the semiconductor, telecommunications, electronics and software fields, according to a news release. Civins handles commercial and intellectual property litigation matters. He's represented clients in patent litigation, trademark and trade secrets disputes, and breach of contract and fraud cases.

Managing partner Gregory M. Bopp said in a news release he was "delighted" to welcome Chibib and Civins back to Bracewell.

"They are exceptional litigators who are highly regarded in the IP and Texas legal communities and their addition will strengthen our firm-wide IP litigation practice," Bopp said.

The duo said they knew that if they left Pillsbury for another firm, it was a move they wanted to make together. Civins said a lot of that has to do with the complimentary skill sets the attorneys possess.

"Mike is a registered patent attorney and has an electrical engineering background, which helps with a lot of the software and technology cases," Civins said. "I've done a lot of patent and trade secret



Michael Chibib



Conor M. Civins

litigation, but have more of a commercial litigation background so I focus a lot on damages and exposure."

Timothy A. Wilkins, managing partner of Bracewell's Austin office, called Chibib and Civins "terrific colleagues" in a news release announcing their return to the firm.

"Their arrival strengthens our ability to serve the IP needs of our technology clients in Austin, which arguably is one of the leading tech centers in the United States," he said.

Chibib received a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Texas at Austin and graduated from the University of Texas School of Law in 1995.

Civins has a bachelor's degree in political science from Emory University and graduated from the University of Texas School of Law in 2003.

--Editing by Jack Karp.