

Daily Journal

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Top Boutiques IN CALIFORNIA 2019

COMPLEX LITIGATION

Lewis & Llewellyn LLP

SAN FRANCISCO

Lewis & Llewellyn has more than 300 clients, including several companies in the Fortune 100. That's quite an accomplishment for any law firm, but it's a great result for a legal services boutique founded just seven years ago.

"Over the last three years, we've really come into the conversation with the top law firms in the Bay Area, regardless of whether or not we're a boutique," said Marc R. Lewis.

Lewis co-founded the firm with Paul T. Llewellyn after they decided to leave Latham & Watkins LLP to make their own way and today their clients are served by five partners.

The firm specializes in high stakes business disputes. Among recent successes is the software implementation dispute *Copart Inc. v. Sparta Consulting Inc.*, CV14-00046 (E.D. Cal., filed Jan. 8, 2014). Lewis & Llewellyn was lead counsel to the defendants, information technology consulting companies Sparta Consulting Inc., KPIT Infosystems Inc. and



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From left, Ryan Erickson, Nathalie Fayad, Nick Saenz, Paul Llewellyn, Becca Furman and Marc Lewis of Lewis & Llewellyn

KPIT Technologies Ltd. In the federal jury trial the plaintiff sought more than \$100 million in damages for alleged breach of contract, fraud, professional negligence and the misappropriation of trade secrets. Lewis & Llewellyn was able to reach a settlement, with neither party admitting liability or wrongdoing.

The firm has also been working on more trade secret and employment mobility cases: Lewis estimates more than 100 in the last 18 months. Among them is *Fidelity Brokerage Services LLC v. Brett Rocine and J.P. Morgan Securities*

LLC, CV17-4993-MJH, (N.D. Cal., filed Aug 28, 2017). In this case, the firm was able to secure a victory for the plaintiff, which claimed one of its former employees stole trade secrets and took them to a competitor.

"It's just becoming an increasingly busy area of law, especially here in the Valley," Lewis said. "We really are one of the go-to firms in the trade secret mobility space."

The rise of the #MeToo movement at the end of 2017 compelled Lewis & Llewellyn to expand its niche practice representing survivors of sexual

abuse. The firm says it has won more than \$12 million for these clients, resulting in more business.

"We are being sought out proactively by clients for specific cases," Lewis added. "Either it's a former client, a repeat client or a referral from somebody who's worked with us in the past."

"We're excited for the future," Llewellyn added. "We feel pleased where we're positioned right now, and we intend to continue to build on our reputation with high stakes, high profile cases."

— Jessica Mach