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Flaster Greenberg Welcomes Four-Member Patent Group to Philadelphia

Press Release

January 3, 2020

(L-R: Michael Piscitelli, Ross Alexander, Joseph Klinicki, Michael Bonella)

Flaster Greenberg PC is pleased to announce that Ross E. Alexander, Michael J. Bonella, Joseph R. Klinicki, and Michael F. Piscitelli have joined the firm as shareholders in the firm's Intellectual Property Department in Philadelphia, bringing with them a robust international patent procurement and litigation practice and over 60 years of combined legal experience. The group represents clients primarily in the technology, pharmaceutical, and manufacturing industries. All four shareholders previously worked at a boutique intellectual property firm in Philadelphia before joining Flaster Greenberg on January 3rd. The team worked together for approximately eight years at their prior firm, and decided that Flaster Greenberg would provide the best platform from which to continue growing their practices and more fully serve their clients.

Additionally, Joseph Klinicki will serve as Chair of Flaster Greenberg's Patent Practice Group, a subset of the firm's Intellectual Property Department, and Michael Bonella will serve on the firm's Board of Directors.

"We are excited to begin 2020 by welcoming this accomplished and well-respected group of attorneys," said Alan Zuckerman, Managing Shareholder of Flaster Greenberg. "We truly believe that this will be a great partnership due in part to the similarities and synergies among our strategic paths and values, and also our overall approach to the practice of law. We look forward to the group taking part in the evolution of not only our Intellectual Property Department, but our firm as a whole."

"The team's extremely sophisticated practice adds a highly sought after specialty that complements perfectly our existing IP Practice and that will add many blue chip clients to our existing roster of valued clients," said Jordan LaVine, Chair of Flaster Greenberg's Intellectual Property Department and Lateral Hiring Committee.

"We are extremely impressed by Flaster Greenberg's existing capabilities and their commitment to growth moving forward," said Joseph Klinicki. "It is clear that the firm's emphasis on transparency, fairness, and strong advocacy for their clients has driven their success, and we are all very excited about the possibilities that this opportunity creates for both us and our clients."

"We saw early on that Flaster would provide the perfect platform from which to serve our existing clients and to grow our practices," commented Michael Bonella. "The firm understands both patent prosecution and litigation and we believe being at a general practice commercial law firm will allow us to eventually provide non-IP legal services to our valued and longstanding clients. Flaster's leadership has been great through our transition and we are excited to hit the ground running."

Ross Alexander focuses his practice in patent procurement, trademark procurement and defense, patent licensing, and patent litigation. His clients range from large financial service corporations and medical device manufacturers to small tech startups. Alexander has a special understanding of the technological, legal, and business aspects of inventions that leverage electrical and computer systems. He also has valuable experience formulating and executing post-grant strategy and has a demonstrated track record of litigating his clients' position in court. Alexander has additional experience in both foreign and domestic prosecution, having successfully prosecuted design patent applications, utility patent applications, and trademark applications for his clients. Alexander earned a B.S. in Computer Science and Political Science, *cum laude*, from the University of Indianapolis and his J.D., *cum laude*, from Syracuse University School of Law.

Michael Bonella's practice focuses on complex patent litigation in diverse technology areas including, electrical hardware and software, medical device, consumer products, and telecommunications. With over 23 years of intellectual property experience, he has argued before the Federal Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, and first-chaired multimillion-dollar patent cases. He has also been the lead attorney on a number of district court litigations, representing both the plaintiffs and defendants and is well-versed in all aspects of district court litigation as well as post-grant proceedings before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. A registered patent attorney, Bonella earned his undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering from Villanova University, graduated *magna cum laude* with his J.D. from Duke University School of Law, and received his LL.M. in Trial Advocacy from Temple University, James E. Beasley School of Law. He is also certified by the U.S. Navy as a nuclear engineer.

Joseph Klinicki helps companies develop and secure their intellectual property rights and has experience in every stage of the patent life cycle. From initial strategic counseling to enforcement and postgrant proceedings, he recognizes the value of how IP can be used to advance the business goals of his clients. Klinicki's patent procurement practice includes global portfolio management responsibilities that have garnered him substantial interaction with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and all major foreign patent offices. His practice also includes transactional support related to IP transfers and licensing as well as representing clients in commercial litigation. Klinicki earned his J.D. from the University of Texas Law School, with honors, and his B.S. from The Pennsylvania State University in electrical engineering with honors and high distinction.

Michael Piscitelli focuses his practice on patent procurement within the electrical, computer, and electromechanical fields, with an emphasis on a wide range of technologies such as wireless telecommunications, data processing, machine learning, medical devices, and electrical systems. He works with businesses and inventors throughout the entire patent procurement process from invention disclosure to patent issuance for both domestic and foreign applications. Prior to his legal career, Piscitelli worked at a large electrical utility company, where he was responsible for performing circuit analysis on the distribution and transmission systems. At a major semiconductor company, he supported the creation of large-scale printed circuit boards for use in the testing of semiconductor devices. While pursuing his undergraduate degree, he gained valuable engineering experience in both the electrical utility and the semiconductor industries. Piscitelli earned his J.D. from Villanova University School of Law and his B.S. from Northeastern University in electrical engineering.

The addition of our newest attorneys is part of Flaster Greenberg's ongoing growth strategy. Over the last two years, Flaster Greenberg has added 18 new attorneys and opened offices in Conshohocken, PA; Jenkintown, PA; Princeton, NJ; and Boca Raton, FL. In January 2019, the firm announced that the attorneys and staff of estate planning boutique law firm Plotnick & Ellis joined Flaster Greenberg, bringing with them a team of six attorneys, two paralegals, and five administrative staff members and a new office location. In June 2019, the firm welcomed seasoned patent attorney Stephen Schott who provides patent and other IP legal counsel to the firm's clients and has a special concentration in electrical and mechanical patents. Additionally, the firm recently welcomed litigation attorney Daniel Epstein. Last December, the firm announced the addition of shareholder Daniel Markind to the Philadelphia office, bringing with him a nationally known Aviation Practice, and business and aviation law attorney Lauren Schwimmer, both formerly of Weir & Partners LLP. Tax attorney Eric Loi and Trusts and Estates attorney Courtney Dolaway also joined the Flaster Greenberg team last fall. Last year, the firm welcomed Elder & Disability Law shareholder Jane Fearn-Zimmer, formerly of Rothkoff Law Group, and Tax shareholder David Neufeld, former name partner at The Law Office of David Neufeld, to the firm's Cherry Hill office. In 2017, the firm brought on Corporate and Tax shareholder Joseph Hayes, former Principal at Offit Kurman. The firm most recently launched a Cannabis Practice, an Elder & Disability Law Practice, a PFAS practice, and formalized its Pharmaceutical Industry Group. The firm was also named one of the Best Places to Work in New Jersey by *NJBiz in 2018.* Most recently, the firm announced the election of Courtney Dolaway, Angie Gambone, Lauren Schwimmer and Damien Tancredi to shareholders effective January 1, 2020.

"As Flaster Greenberg continues to grow, both regionally and with new practice areas, we are always looking for talented attorneys to join our team," said Zuckerman. "Working together, we look forward to more fully serving both our existing regional and national clients with the top-notch service they've come to expect, with added depth and breadth of services."

ATTORNEYS MENTIONED

Ross Alexander

Michael Bonella

Joseph Klinicki

Michael Piscitelli