

# Goodwin Is Building a 'Destination' Litigation Practice From Silicon Valley to Silicon Beach

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## By Jessie Yount

### What You Need to Know

- Goodwin Procter has built a team of 56 litigators from Silicon Valley to Silicon Beach.
- Its California offices are generating new business from tech, life sciences and financial clients in the state.
- In the past two years, it has grown from about 230 lawyers to 358 lawyers across California.

Goodwin Procter continues to [make a name for itself in the Golden State](#)—a feat that many firms with East Coast roots have aimed to achieve.

As it continues to fill out its footprint in Southern California, where it [opened a new office in Santa Monica in 2019](#), it's looking to litigation as a major area of growth for the key sectors it serves: tech, life sciences, private

equity, real estate and intellectual property.

“Our litigation group has grown tremendously,” said Grant Fondo, the California litigation leader at Goodwin. “One of the things that makes us different is our group generates work from litigation in California. We’re not branch offices serving East Coast clients.”

The firm’s well-established name, reputation and track record in California keeps its litigators busy, Fondo said, and its team is “fortunate to receive direct phone calls from GCs.”

Recent work paints a clear picture of the firm’s ability to attract clients up and down the coast.

In September, intellectual property litigators Neel Chatterjee and Darryl Woo secured a settlement for their client eko



(L-R) Adrienne Marshack and Grant Fondo of Goodwin.

Courtesy photo

in a contract dispute case with Quibi related to video streaming service. Quibi, which was led by Jeff Katzenberg and Meg Whitman, is now shut down and the company’s mobile technology is being transferred to eko as part of the settlement.

Chatterjee and Brett Schuman lead a team that represented Anthony Levandowski, an autonomous car engineer, in the high-profile trade secret dispute case between Google and Uber that took place in 2019 and 2020.

And Fondo himself is representing John Stumpf, former chairman and CEO of Wells Fargo, in several investigations and civil litigations and Houston-based tax attorney Carlos Kepke in what "the Department of Justice has identified as the largest criminal tax case in history," Fondo said.

Goodwin's focus on high-profile matters for tech innovators and financial institutions and individuals has garnered attention from more enterprising lawyers. In the past two years, the firm has grown its California offices from about 230 lawyers to 358 lawyers. In that time, its litigation practice has added six partners to create a 56-lawyer team.

In August, the firm brought on Matt Kanny, the national chair of the trial and litigation practices at Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, to co-lead its litigation practice in Southern California alongside Laura Stoll. And Adrienne Marshack, who was previously Kanny's partner at Manatt, joined the firm in Santa Monica this month.

"Goodwin is at the forefront of emerging markets like cannabis, cryptocurrency and blockchain, and autonomous cars... that excites me," Marshack said of her arrival.

The firm's focus on adapting alongside companies that are engaged in disruptive technologies is another key to its success in the region, according to Fondo.

"We are constantly pivoting to areas that fit within our core group of expertise and where we see market need," he said.

For instance, the firm has tapped into the growing base of entertainment and media technology companies in Santa Monica. It's also established subsector groups such as its cannabis and digital currency and blockchain technology practices, the latter of which Fondo serves as founder and co-chair.

Fondo added, "The firm is very supportive of growing with our clients and with emerging industries, and that has been a significant contributor to real success in California."