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Goodwin Procter continues life sciences practice expansion

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Continuing the expansion of its life sciences practice, Goodwin Procter LLP announced Tuesday the addition of Can Cui, formerly with Morrison & Foerster LLP, and Steven Green, previously with Latham & Watkins LLP, to its Bay Area offices.

With Cui and Green, based in San Francisco and Silicon Valley respectively, the firm has added three lateral life sciences partners in the region in the last 12 months.

The additions are part of the firm's strategy to be a global destination practice for life sciences companies and investors, according to Mitchell S. Bloom, global chair of the practice.

"When I joined Goodwin, we were really focused on a mission statement to develop what we described as a destination life science practice for innovative and emerging companies. And when we thought about what we wanted to do, there were a couple of themes that came out of it," Bloom said.

Those themes included increasing the firm's presence in the life sciences hubs, Northern California and Boston, and developing a practice group that was industry specific but offered a range of services in four vital core practice areas: corporate, intellectual property, licensing and regulatory.

The mission was to create a one-stop shop practice group that could advise emerging companies throughout their life cycles, offering all the services they could need or want.

In pursuing that goal, the practice group has grown to one of the largest in the U.S. and globally to specialize in emerg-

practice in California, but we've never really had, until the last few years, the deep team that we've built and are deepening with additions, Bloom said.

Cui is external general counsel to life sciences companies in the U.S. and China. A former scientist with a doctorate in biological chemistry and

The firm's intense focus on emerging companies and the collaboration of the life sciences attorneys across the core practice areas has also been key to the practice group's success, particularly in attracting Bay Area talent, according to partners Deepa M. Rich and Michael Shuster. They have been

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ing life sciences companies, according to Bloom, and has been a driver in the firm's success in competing with native Bay Area firms.

Goodwin Procter has 161 global life sciences lawyers and an additional 265 litigators working on life sciences matters. In California, the firm has 31 life sciences lawyers, plus an additional 20 litigators.

"Over time that's evolved into much more of a global strategy," explained Bloom. "Now it's not just about the U.S. anymore. It's also about Europe and it's also about Asia, China in particular."

"California has been a critical piece of that for many years and ... we've always had a strong

molecular pharmacology, he specializes in China related life sciences transactions including cross border licensing, mergers and acquisitions and joint ventures. He also advises clients in intellectual property, due diligence and Chinese regulatory matters.

Green's specialty lies in advising life sciences and technology clients in legal matters throughout their corporate life cycles, including new company formations, fundraising, mergers and acquisitions and initial public offerings. His clients also include venture capital firms, who he advises in structuring and executing investments in life sciences and technology companies.

leading the practice group's California expansion since joining the firm as laterals.

"If I look at sort of my journey, which led me to Goodwin, I think it reflects the larger narrative that we've been discussing," said Shuster, who specializes in intellectual property and joined the firm from Fenwick & West LLP. "It was in fact that Goodwin had a vertically integrated life science business unit that wasn't full of people who were just dabbling in the space."

Rich, who also joined the firm in 2019, specializes in corporate and securities law and moved to Goodwin from Sidley Austin LLP with one other partner. ■

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