

SEATTLE COUNSEL TO COUNSEL

A SPECIAL REPORT

The National Law Journal this week spotlights lawyers who serve as outside counsel to some of the top in-house legal teams at companies based in the Seattle area. The Seattle Counsel to Counsel is a follow-up to our Seattle Legal Departments of the Year reports, which we published earlier this year and in 2014. Those reports profiled top corporate counsel teams thriving in the Emerald City's growing sectors, including technology, real estate and hospitality. Among the companies highlighted in those reports were Microsoft Corp., Expedia Inc., Weyerhaeuser Co., T-Mobile US Inc., Guidant Financial Group Inc., F5 Networks Inc. and Recreational Equipment Inc. In this week's report, which is based on research and reporting by NLJ staff and contributors, we bring you the attorneys at law firms based in Seattle and across the country who have forged strong professional ties with those in-house departments to negotiate and close the big deals, handle labor and employment matters, volunteer legal services in the Seattle area to those in need, litigate cases in state and federal courts, protect intellectual property rights, provide community services and more.



SHANE BRUN

PARTNER, GOODWIN PROCTER

Outside counsel to F5 Networks Inc., Seattle Legal Departments of the Year, 2015.



It was patent litigator and outside-counsel Shane Brun's knack for translating complex information into plain English that helped seal a crucial courtroom win, according to the legal team at Seattle technology firm F5 Networks Inc.

In March 2013, Brun, then a partner at K&L Gates, used that skill to distill complicated tech-

nical and legal issues into "common sense chunks of information" that made sense to the company's nontechnical staff and, equally important, to a judge, said F5 Networks general counsel Scot Rogers in an email.

The result: As a jury trial loomed, a California federal judge granted F5's motion for summary judgment in the closely watched patent infringement case.

The matter involved complex issues pertaining to modular networking patents for streamlining data flow between computers brought by Implicit Networks Inc.

Crediting Brun, along with K&L Gates litigator Holly Hogan, Rogers said the pair saved the network application delivery company from a costly trial, and "made our in-house counsel's job easier."

Brun, who joined Goodwin Procter in San Francisco as a partner last year, has served as in-house counsel to NBC Internet Inc. and OpenTV Corp.

He employs a single philosophy for success whichever hat he is wearing: Avoid surprises to the clients and always keep them in the loop.

Along with the Implicit Networks victory, Brun also wrangled a favorable settlement for F5 in a 2012 breach of contract case brought by Neustar Inc.

In both matters, Brun said, he enjoyed a seamless rapport with Rogers and F5's other leaders, who he said are people he would choose as friends.

Rogers called Brun "a pleasure to work" with, so much so that F5, which had \$1.73 billion in revenues for fiscal year 2014 ended Sept. 30, will keep him and Hogan on a new case related to the Implicit litigation, even though they now work at different firms.

"Their ability to work together and keep the fees reasonable by avoiding duplicate work ... is a great example of collaboration by outside counsel," Rogers said.

—LISA HOFFMAN