

Patents

Post 'big law' stage: why Barton's latest partner is keen to offer 'something better'

Sanjana Mishra May 15 2026



Richard de Bodo, who had a lengthy career at international firms, shares how he will address client needs and praises the unique offerings of smaller firms

Midsize US law firm **Barton** announced on May 12 that it has hired trial lawyer Richard de Bodo as a partner in its IP practice.

De Bodo, who will work in the firm's Los Angeles office, will be tasked with expanding the firm's life sciences, pharmaceutical, and technology capabilities.

Before joining Barton, he held several prominent positions at major international law firms, including as chair of the IP life sciences practice at **Morgan Lewis & Bockius**, co-chair of the patent litigation and life sciences practices at **DLA Piper**, and chair of the West Coast IP practice at **Hogan Lovells**.

His time in these roles has earned him recognition as an 'IP litigation star' by Managing IP's sister publication, **Benchmark Litigation**.

De Bodo told Managing IP that his previous leadership experiences provided a clear perspective on what clients want and value in their lawyers.

"Clients want lawyers who will take the time to delve into clients' problems and challenges, who bring a fresh perspective and can see the unique nuances of each problem and situation, and who can help clients find solutions that may not have been predictable."

He added that his move to Barton, from previously practising at 'big law' firms, was driven by his belief that smaller firms can provide clients with unique services.

Barton's ethos of building a practice with former 'big law' attorneys who wanted to step away from the traditional law firm model and prioritise a client-based, interpersonal approach was also a drawing factor for de Bodo.

"We are in a post- 'big law' stage in our evolution. Firms like Barton can offer something better and more valuable than what 'big law' offers – simple, well-thought-out solutions grounded in analysis and experience that are delivered efficiently. This doesn't require a thousand lawyers or even several hundred."

Building an IP life sciences litigation bench is one of the ways firms like Barton are looking to establish a competitive niche.

Barton's hire of de Bodo marks one of several IP life sciences hires this year.

Managing IP **reported** on this trend late last month, highlighting how practitioners believe that litigation in the IP life sciences sector is a key revenue driver for firms.

De Bodo said the demand for experienced IP life sciences litigators will continue to grow and provide monetary value for Barton.

"The Barton team has extensive knowledge and experience relating to the life sciences and healthcare industry and has successfully represented many life sciences businesses and companies. Barton can

Topics

News

IP Offices

Life sciences

People moves

Barton

United States

Patents



Sanjana Mishra

SENIOR REPORTER Managing IP

Sanjana reports on all aspects of IP in the US and the Americas. Based in New York, she covers law firm news and strategies, as well as market insights.