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Hartford Firm Focuses Eyes On Texas

By DOUGLAS S. MALAN

Attorney Michael A. Cantor is no stranger to Houston.

Over the past 20 years, he and attorneys from his Hartford-based intellectual property firm Cantor Colburn have been actively representing Baker Hughes, one of the world's largest oil and gas well drilling companies based in the city.

Now the firm will be spending even more time there after veteran Houston IP attorney Paul S. Madan and two of his associates have joined forces with Cantor Colburn. "Paul and I have worked together [representing Baker Hughes] since the early 1990s," Cantor said. "For him and us, this made a lot of sense."

Houston is a hotbed of patent activity and home to many large petrochemical companies as well as AT&T and IBM, Cantor said. Cantor Colburn's long-standing relationship with Madan and Baker Hughes was the catalyst for the move.

Baker Hughes is considered a main competitor to drilling companies Halliburton and Schlumberger. Halliburton employees have been linked to mechanical failures on the Deepwater Horizon rig that exploded and continues to pour oil into the Gulf of Mexico.

Cantor believes off-shore drilling will continue, and the environmental devastation in the Gulf could provide opportunities for his firm in the near future. "What it could do is create a lot of focus on safety products for both drilling and production," Cantor said. "I'm sure there will be a rush to the patent office as new products are developed."

The new Cantor Colburn office takes over the space held by Madan's former firm, Mad-



MICHAEL A. CANTOR



PHIL COLBURN

an & Sriram. Detroit-based partner Edmund P. Anderson will relocate to Houston to manage the office of four attorneys and one patent agent. David E. Rodrigues, an associate, will relocate from the Hartford office.

Anderson and Madan both have extensive experience representing oilfield services in patent development, while Rodrigues has written patents for high-profile clients such as General Electric. Associate Gunnar R. Heinisch and patent agent Ronald E. Jones join Cantor Colburn from Madan & Sriram.

Cantor Colburn, which has about 90 combined attorneys and patent agents, now operates offices in Hartford, Atlanta, Wash-

ington, D.C., Detroit and Houston. The firm grossed nearly \$35 million last year.

The Houston office is ripe for more growth, added Cantor, who has teamed with co-managing partner Philmore H. Colburn II to expand Cantor Colburn from an eight-lawyer firm in the early 1990s. "The nice thing about Houston is there are a lot of patent attorneys," he said. "There's a nice reservoir of potential patent attorneys for us to hire in the future."

And though no other office expansions are in the works, the next logical step is heading farther west. "The location becoming more apparent is Los Angeles where we have a growing clientele," Cantor said. ■

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