

## Technology Group Of The Year: Orrick

By **Corey Rothauser**

*Law360 (January 30, 2025, 4:03 PM EST)* -- Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP's technology practice has advised on a range of high-value deals and litigation matters in the sector over the past year, including handling over \$20 billion in venture financing transactions for artificial intelligence companies and overturning a \$2 billion trade secrets verdict, earning the firm a spot among the 2024 Law360 Technology Groups of the Year.

This marks the second consecutive year that Orrick's technology group has been recognized for its work advising companies on AI and intellectual property matters.

Matthew Gemello, a corporate partner in Orrick's Silicon Valley office, noted that the past year "was really just an acceleration of a lot of the trends that we saw starting to ripen and become very real in 2023."

Gemello highlighted the significant surge in investments over the past year in artificial intelligence, emphasizing how Orrick effectively structured major deals for leading AI companies such as Anthropic, which secured \$4 billion in funding from Amazon, as well as significant fundraising rounds for Mistral AI and Magic.

"They're buying massive computer power, they're doing deals with Google and Amazon and Nvidia ... it's an interesting cycle where the major companies put money in the startups, and then the startup becomes a customer of the major company," Gemello said, explaining the unique needs of AI companies when financing these deals.

John Bautista, a corporate partner in Orrick's Silicon Valley office, remarked that the team gained experience in helping the AI companies manage their new strategic partnerships in a way that maintains their independence, adding, "We have to ensure that the companies have significant flexibility to build their business and are not effectively acquired by the big companies merely because they sought an investment."

While highlighting the team's strong presence in key tech hubs such as San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle and London, Bautista reflected on their expanding counsel role.

"If you look at the market cap of these private companies, we are their principal outside counsel, not only for the transactional work but also for the work that they need to actually build their business," he said.



Orrick leverages the team's technical expertise in lawsuits related to AI, such as taking on Workday as a client in defense of an ongoing class action over claims its AI technology contributes to discriminatory hiring practices.

Alyssa Caridis, co-chair of Orrick's intellectual property business unit, said she looks back with pride on the team's role in a ruling before the Court of Appeals of Virginia in which they secured the overturning of a \$2 billion trade secrets judgment against Pegasystems Inc., one of the largest of its kind and a ruling closely watched by legal experts.

"Our win for Pegasystems this past year exemplifies what Orrick's appellate team is really renowned for, and that's winning uphill fights and overturning nine- and 10-figure trial-level losses," she said.

In the patent litigation space, Orrick continues to represent Sonos in its ongoing disputes with Google over wireless speaker technology.

"We have supported Sonos' efforts to both protect the innovation at the heart of its business ... and also to defend against Google's claims of infringement," Caridis said. "We've taken this battle from the trial courts to the ITC, to the patent office, and won on every level on both the offensive and defensive sides."

Orrick's intellectual property team has been active in AI-related copyright disputes, representing Microsoft in multiple cases brought by media organizations and authors, and successfully securing the dismissal of key claims under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act in a lawsuit involving Microsoft-owned GitHub.

Orrick has also advised on key infrastructure projects, such as Microsoft's global data center expansion efforts to meet AI-driven demands, including a major deal with Brookfield valued at over \$10 billion.

"We're seeing the impact on the energy grid and how we're going to need to solve that piece," Gemello said.

Looking ahead, Orrick anticipates continued growth in AI-related regulatory and compliance work.

"Our clients' innovation is outpacing the regulation," Gemello said. "We've got to be on the front foot from a lawyering perspective, really being creative and thoughtful."

Bautista emphasized Orrick's position at the intersection of technology and other sectors, such as energy and fintech, as a major advantage.

"We're deeply embedded in this area and the ecosystem overall," he said. "We work with the companies, the investors, and the incubators ... and that's what's driving our growth."

--Editing by Michael Watanabe.