

Manatt's Digital and Tech Group, on a 'Hockey Stick Trajectory,' Adds 2 Partners in Northern California

By **Jessie Yount**

What You Need to Know

- Manatt has added two partners to its digital and technology group in Northern California.
- Timothy Lohse spent two and a half decades as a patent attorney at DLA Piper.
- Michel Narganes, formerly of Crowell & Moring, brings in-house and business expertise.

As Manatt, Phelps & Phillips continues to build out its legal and consulting teams for digital and technology clients, the firm has brought on two partners in Northern California.

Timothy Lohse, a patent attorney who spent about 26 years at DLA Piper and its predecessor firm GrayCary, joins the firm's technology and intellectual property litigation practice in Palo Alto. Michel Narganes, most recently a partner at Crowell & Moring, joins the firm's digital and technology transactions practice in San Francisco.

Both additions are “a reflection of our national growth in digital and technology industries,” managing partner and chief executive Donna Wilson said, noting that the firm began building this industry group pre-pandemic and that it is currently on a “hockey stick trajectory.”

Wilson continued, “Due to our hybrid team approach, we realized that more and more of our clients and their business models were disrupting or being disrupted by

technology. We felt that our work with the disruptors could help our work with the disrupted, so we've looked for subject matter experts who are terrific on the consulting and business side and legal side of digital technology.”

Lohse brings experience advising clients on patent preparation and prosecution for software technologies such as computer cache memory replacement strategies, wireless applications, database storage systems, content search algorithms and more as well as trial experience, the firm said.

Narganes has represented venture-backed startups and other clients through licensing, commercial transactions and merger and acquisitions for over 15 years, the firm said. Her work has focused on cryptocurrency, blockchain and NFT spaces—including representing the platform that facilitated the sale of Beeple's piece “Everydays: The First 5,000 Days” in the first digital auction held by Christie's. She has also served as in-house counsel for brand-building software company Sitecore and founded her own legal services firm.

Both lateral additions will help clients as they grapple with technology disruption and a convergence of industries, according to Wilson. For example, the firm's head of entertainment has been on speed dial with



Courtesy photos

Timothy Lohse (L) and Michel Narganes (R) of Manatt, Phelps & Phillips.

its head of fintech this year—a trend that is expected to continue as artists and creators look for new ways to monetize their products and offerings, Wilson said.

“The way Manatt's hybrid team works together to provide holistic counsel to clients as they disrupt today's business landscape is unlike anything I have seen in the market,” Narganes added in a statement.

In April, Manatt also added venture capital and emerging companies partners Thomas Michael, formerly the co-chair of the U.S. startup practice at Dentons, in Los Angeles, and Kirkland & Ellis partner Rustin Brown in Washington, D.C. In January, the firm grew the consultancy side of its business with managing directors Jennifer Millard and Kalon Gutierrez from consulting firm Sanctum Insights.

DLA Piper and Crowell & Moring did not immediately respond to request for comment on the departures.