

Rising Star: WilmerHale's Patrick J. McLain

By **Matthew Villmer**



Law360, New York (April 24, 2014, 7:15 PM ET) -- WilmerHale's Patrick J. McLain is a seasoned international trade attorney whose work for clients in international economic regulation and trade policy matters, anti-dumping proceedings, and customs and export control matters has earned him a spot on Law360's list of top young international trade attorneys.

The 2014 Rising Star, who is a counsel in WilmerHale's Washington, D.C., office, became passionate about international issues at a young age, he said.

"My interest in international trade stems from my dad, who as a civil engineer worked on projects around the globe," McLain told Law360. "He really believed that you could help the less fortunate by developing their economies and their infrastructure, whether it

be a power plant or a copper mine."

McLain said he eventually turned to an international trade practice after he realized it was something that linked countries together, lifting them out of poverty.

The global effect of representing companies in trade disputes was a huge draw, McLain said, and the skilled team at WilmerHale makes his job all that more enjoyable.

"I'm fortunate that WilmerHale's international trade group offers such a diverse array of work," McLain told Law360. "I spend most of my time on WTO and trade remedies litigation but also work on market access counseling, policy, customs investigations and export controls. Best of all, I get to work alongside colleagues who are both really nice and really smart."

In his practice before the World Trade Organization, McLain typically works at the prepanel, panel, appellate body and compliance stages on disputes that have important political and commercial dimensions.

"One of the most interesting challenges in WTO litigation is mastering complex economic analyses and then translating that into powerful advocacy," McLain told Law360. "In fact, that's one of the things I

like best about trade law in general — figuring out the economic forces at play and then articulating your client’s case in a way that captures the big picture and will resonate with the audience, even if they’re not economic experts.”

McLain prepared to work in the international trade practice by clerking with Judge Jane A. Restani of the U.S. Court of International Trade. Restani was also a visiting judge with the First, Third, Sixth, Ninth and Eleventh circuits, as well as the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

“I loved clerking for Judge Restani,” McLain told Law360. “She is one of the most prolific judges, as far as sitting as a designee judge on other courts, and I was able to travel with her during many of her stints on other courts. One day I would be working with her on an anti-dumping case, then we would go work with a circuit court on a criminal matter the next — it was an amazing time.”

And in high school, McLain had a run-in with future football star Tom Brady, whom he hopes won’t bring his talents to the legal sphere.

“I was captain of my high school football team when Tom Brady was the quarterback,” McLain said. “While we both played in college — he at big-time Michigan, me at Division 1-AA Georgetown — his football career went a lot farther than mine. But he’ll never know the thrill of litigating an anti-dumping case — unless he’s got post-NFL plans I don’t know about.”

--Editing by Kat Laskowski.