

## Rising Star: WilmerHale's Gregory Lantier

*Law360 (August 23, 2018, 1:51 PM EDT)* -- Gregory Lantier of WilmerHale has brought in numerous Federal Circuit victories on behalf of clients like Universal Wilde Inc. and Erie Indemnity Company, getting patents they were accused of infringing struck down, and has protected his own clients against similar attacks, earning him a spot as one of six intellectual property attorneys honored by Law360 as Rising Stars.

### **HOW HE BECAME AN IP LITIGATOR:**

Lantier said his career path started as “happenstance.” When he was a summer associate at WilmerHale predecessor Hale and Dorr following his first year of law school, most litigators there were working on IP, so he said he fell into it as well. He enjoyed it enough to focus on it again when he returned to the firm after a clerkship with now-Chief U.S. District Judge Rebecca Beach Smith of the Eastern District of Virginia.

“It’s challenging and it’s always interesting, but I’ve also been able to, through IP litigation, build a practice in which I get to litigate both at the appellate and the trial level in a variety of different types of courts and agencies, and that has kept the practice very interesting and fast-moving for me,” he said.

### **THE CASES THAT MATTER MOST TO HIM:**

Lantier said he couldn’t pick out one case to highlight his career, saying, “The biggest cases for me have been the ones where I’ve felt that I had the opportunity to really help a client solve a complicated problem and reach a resolution that they didn’t expect was going to be possible at the outset of the matter.”

For an example, he pointed to a patent infringement case that Secured Mail Solutions LLC brought against his client, Universal

**RISING**  
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**STAR**



**Gregory Lantier**  
WilmerHale

**Age:** 40

**Home base:** Washington, D.C.

**Position:** Partner and Co-Chair of the Post-Grant Patent Proceedings Group

**Law school:** Harvard Law School

**First job after law school:** Clerk for Chief U.S. District Judge Rebecca Beach Smith of the Eastern District of Virginia.

Wilde. The patent owner was a nonpracticing entity trying to enforce seven patents covering mail verification and authentication systems required by the U.S. Postal Service. In all, the California district court invalidated 243 claims from those patents on a motion to dismiss, saying they didn't cover patent-eligible subject matter, and the Federal Circuit upheld that decision in October.

"That was a situation where we had a client who was looking at what was likely going to be a very long and expensive litigation based on the fact that the same plaintiff had asserted those patents against others and pressed the litigation through summary judgment, and we were able to take care of it in a way that was very cost effective, and obtain the right result quickly," Lantier said.

#### ***ON HIS PROUDEST MOMENTS:***

Lantier said he's proud of his overall practice and his wins, but that he doesn't find it productive to focus on those moments.

"Even when we obtain a great result, my experience has been that there's not really time to bask in that moment because you're always already thinking about the next steps to put the client in a better position," he said. "I really don't have an experience in which I say, 'This is the moment I felt proudest of,' because you're always focusing on what you can do next to help the client."

#### ***HIS OTHER NOTABLE CASES:***

In another win against a nonpracticing entity, Lantier convinced the Federal Circuit to invalidate three patents that describe screening for errant computer files and to deem that the company didn't own a fourth asserted patent. Lantier was representing Erie Indemnity Company in the fight against the patent owner, Intellectual Ventures.

The Federal Circuit found that the three patents were abstract and that a third wasn't actually owned by Intellectual Ventures, despite the company's argument that it received it as part of a transaction.

In another case, Lantier represented Israel-based Amdocs Ltd. as it sued Openet Telecom Inc. for infringement of its patents covering computer network monitoring technology. Lantier said the case was litigated for eight years, dismissed in district court twice and revived just as many times by the Federal Circuit. In the end, the case settled mid-trial, with a licensing agreement between the companies.

"I was putting the damages witness on when the settlement papers came into the courtroom," Lantier said.

— *As told to Dani Kass*

*Law360's Rising Stars are attorneys under 40 whose legal accomplishments belie their age. A team of Law360 editors selected the 2018 Rising Stars winners after reviewing more than 1,200 submissions. This interview has been edited and condensed.*

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