

## Rising Star: WilmerHale's Lauren Fletcher

Law360, New York (July 20, 2017, 3:52 PM EDT) -- WilmerHale's Lauren Fletcher has had a leading role in a number of high-profile patent cases, including the long-running battle between Apple and Samsung, and secured a number of precedent-setting wins at the Federal Circuit, earning her a spot as one of five IP lawyers under age 40 honored by Law360 as Rising Stars.

### ***BIGGEST CASES OF HER CAREER:***

Fletcher has represented Apple in the ongoing smartphone fight with Samsung, which resulted in the Supreme Court's first ruling in a design patent case in more than 100 years and an en banc Federal Circuit ruling that reinstated a \$120 million verdict against Samsung.

Fletcher was also a leading member of the WilmerHale team that represented [Intel Corp.](#) in a \$2 billion infringement suit brought by AVM Technologies. The suit, which ended with a judge finding no infringement, was the second that AVM brought against Intel over the same patent; the first resulted in summary judgment of no damages. The case involved complicated microprocessor technology, requiring attorneys "work at it piece-by-piece to explain the technology for the noninfringement defense and also how it related to the damages claims," Fletcher said.

### ***PROUDEST MOMENT AS A LAWYER:***

It came when Fletcher argued her first case at the Federal Circuit, where the panel of judges hearing the case just happened to include Circuit Judge Alan D. Lourie — the judge Fletcher clerked for after law school.

"I didn't want to embarrass myself in front of the judges in the court where I had clerked just a few years earlier," she said. "But I was

**RISING**  
★★★★★  
**STAR**



**Lauren Fletcher**  
WilmerHale

**Age:** 39

**Home base:** Boston

**Position:** Partner

**Law school:** Harvard Law School

**First job after law school:**  
Law clerk for Federal Circuit Judge Alan D. Lourie

excited to be representing Intel there and was hoping for a good result, which we ultimately got.”

WilmerHale’s William Lee, an IP icon who has argued dozens of times before the Federal Circuit, was second chair during the argument, “which I think the judges got a kick out of,” Fletcher said.

#### ***WHY SHE IS AN IP ATTORNEY:***

The decision was an easy one for Fletcher, who has a degree in electrical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and has always had a passion for math and science.

“Being an IP attorney allows me to continue working in those fields while also getting opportunities to write and make logical arguments,” she said. “I really enjoy working with experts to learn about complicated technologies and then trying to simplify and explain those technologies in litigation.”

#### ***WHAT MOTIVATES HER:***

Working on cutting-edge cases and trying to shape the law one case at a time is what has kept Fletcher motivated. “I’ve been fortunate to be able to work on a lot of cases that have resulted in precedential decisions on appeal [at the Federal Circuit] and that have affected the way that we litigate cases in IP law.”

#### ***ADVICE FOR YOUNG ATTORNEYS:***

Fletcher and Lee teach the “Problem Solving Workshop” at Harvard Law School, a required course for all first-year students. The advice they give: “Remember that being a lawyer is not just about analyzing case law and drafting legal memos and briefs. It’s about representing clients, and we need to think practically, creatively and strategically to do what’s best for the client.”

#### ***HER BIGGEST CHALLENGE AS AN ATTORNEY AND WHAT SHE LEARNED FROM IT:***

Fletcher lost her first case that went to trial, a dispute between [Broadcom](#) and [Qualcomm](#) at the [U.S. International Trade Commission](#). And Broadcom lost on the patent that Fletcher had focused on. However, the company was able to get the ITC decision on that patent reversed on appeal at the Federal Circuit. This experience “taught me not to give up and to recognize that many of these IP cases are very complicated and it can take years to litigate them. Sometimes you have to be patient and persevere.”

— *As told to Matthew Bultman*

*Law360's Rising Stars are attorneys under 40 whose legal accomplishments belie their age. A team of Law360 editors selected the 2017 Rising Stars winners after reviewing more than 1,200 submissions. This interview has been edited and condensed.*