

## Simpson Thacher Hires Munger Tolles Litigator in Northern California

By **Jessie Yount**

April 20, 2023

### What You Need to Know

- Simpson Thacher hired Munger Tolles partner Laura Lin in Palo Alto.
- Lin is the firm's first hire in California in 2023, strengthening its litigation presence in the Bay Area.
- Lin has advised LinkedIn, Tesla and Mark Zuckerberg, among others, in disputes and trial matters.

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett has hired Munger, Tolles & Olson partner Laura Lin in Palo Alto.

Lin is joining the firm's litigation department on Monday, according to the firm, marking its eighth lateral addition since the start of 2023.

She is the firm's first partner hire in California this year, arriving a few months after Goodwin Procter capital markets partner Heidi Mayon joined the firm in Palo Alto.

"The Palo Alto office is extraordinarily important to the firm," said Jon Youngwood, the global co-chair of the litigation department at Simpson Thacher. "We have a huge corporate practice and an extremely strong litigation practice. We thought we would benefit by adding another young lawyer with a background in a diversity of cases and clients."

Youngwood highlighted Lin's experience counseling Silicon Valley companies and strong trial resume in particular. "We'd been looking for someone with all those skills for a long time, and Laura is a great cultural fit," he said.

Lin practiced at Munger Tolles for over 11 years, making partner in 2019. She brings a wide range of experience in commercial litigation to Simpson, the firm said, including in securities litigation and insurance dispute matters.

In her prior role, Lin advised LinkedIn, Tesla and Mark Zuckerberg, as well as other local technology companies in national business disputes.

"I have a broad-based litigation practice and one thing that drew me to Simpson was the ability to flex those muscles," Lin said. "I've represented a number of companies in the

Valley and I'm looking forward to working with the firm's clients, particularly in the private equity space, and building relationships in the Valley."

In the PE space and beyond that, Youngwood said Simpson is seeing activity in four core areas: regulatory matters stemming from the U.S. Securities Exchange Commission, the Delaware courts associated with M&A and transactional matters, federal courts in antitrust and securities issues, and industry-specific regulatory issues depending on where firms' portfolio companies are situated.

More broadly, the litigation group is "seeing very strong and healthy demand," Youngwood said, noting that in addition to the aforementioned areas, the firm is also seeing a healthy amount of IP-related and insurance coverage work.

"There is very healthy activity all across board, and that is in the context of a corporate market that is not as healthy as it was two years ago, but it'll come back," he said. "The part of our practice that ties to the corporate work, that type of work changes when deal flow slows. But more interesting deals still have litigation and other activity. We're seeing reasonable activity in those spaces."

The firm doesn't have additional litigation partner hires on the immediate horizon, Youngwood said, though Simpson will continue to invest in its organic pipeline.

"That was something that drew me to the Palo Alto office," Lin added. "Everyone has been so complimentary of the pipeline of talent. That drew me to the opportunity to mentor and to help guide folks forward in their careers."



**Laura Lin of Simpson Thacher**

Courtesy photo