

MVP: Weil Gotshal's Edward Reines

By Kevin Stawicki

Law360 (November 13, 2019, 5:27 PM EST) -- Edward R. Reines, of Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP's life sciences practice, helped a major biotech company block its competitor from continuing to infringe a DNA manipulation method over the past year, earning him a place among Law360's 2019 Life Sciences MVPs.

HIS BIGGEST ACCOMPLISHMENT THIS YEAR:

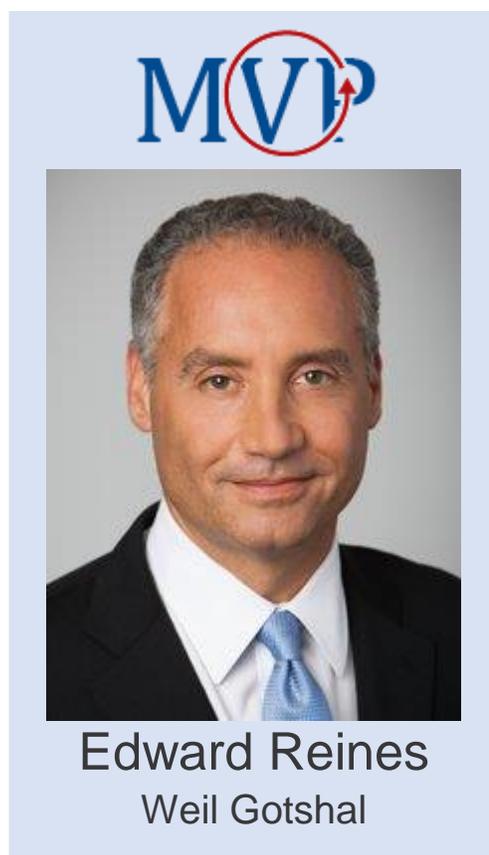
Reines led the Weil Gotshal team representing Bio-Rad Laboratories Inc. and topped off its \$24 million patent infringement verdict against 10X Genomics Inc. by securing a permanent injunction to bar 10X from profiting off of the DNA manipulation method owned by Bio-Rad and the University of Chicago.

A Delaware federal judge ruled in July that Bio-Rad deserved the injunction because all factors weighed in its favor as the licensee of the University of Chicago's patents. While 10X may have been more successful in the so-called droplet market, as this method of DNA manipulation is known, infringing Bio-Rad's technology was key to its success, the judge said.

"Obtaining an injunction on an existing product line is no small feat," Reines said. "That's not a gimme."

Making the case to stop the infringing product from being sold was a challenge, Reines said, because he had to respond to researchers from across the country asking to continue to let the infringing product be sold for the purposes of research, including cancer research.

"Explaining why in the bigger picture rewarding patent rights with exclusivity promotes innovation was the challenge," he said. "Sometimes it's small-minded to say, 'OK, we can let the infringer do what they're doing,' but if you did that, the whole concept of patent incentives would go away. It's a hard sell because it takes a big picture view."



WHY HE'S A LIFE SCIENCES ATTORNEY:

Reines chalked up landing in the life sciences industry to serendipity. He said he caught the bug when he moved to Silicon Valley as it was just beginning to emerge as a life sciences and biotechnology hub. What's kept him engaged is the novelty of the field and the challenge of boiling down complex issues to their most salient parts, he said.

"The inventions are just fascinating. Many of the inventions we protect are great leaps forward with huge promise for improving the lives of many people," Reines said. "It's easy to love."

WHAT MOTIVATES HIM:

With an increase in the amount of patent disputes involving important innovations related to DNA and genetics, Reines said he's motivated by the fact that Weil Gotshal is especially poised to handle those types of cases.

"There's a whole world opening up and we're the go-to firm," he said, adding that no one lawyer can achieve such good results for clients. "This is by no means a solo practitioner. This is a team sport."

WHAT ADVICE HE HAS FOR JUNIOR ATTORNEYS:

For young lawyers working at the intersection of life sciences and intellectual property, Reines said it's helpful to avoid getting immersed in the details of the science for science's sake.

"You have to understand how to translate. At the end of the day the complex biotechnology has to be digested for the layperson," he said.

Reines said succeeding is all about passion in the end.

"Make sure that you enjoy what you're doing and that should push you," he said. "If you're passionate about what you're doing, you care about it and you're smart enough, you can figure it out."

— *As told to Kevin Stawicki*

Law360's MVPs are attorneys who have distinguished themselves from their peers over the past year through high-stakes litigation, record-breaking deals and complex global matters. A team of Law360 editors selected the 2019 MVP winners after reviewing nearly 900 submissions.