

Rising Star: Gibson Dunn's Andrew Robb

By **Dani Kass**

Law360 (August 21, 2026, 4:00 PM EDT) -- Andrew Robb of Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP helped secure the setting aside of an \$847 million patent infringement verdict on behalf of his client Verizon, eliminating one of the largest patent verdicts in recent years, earning him a spot among the intellectual property law practitioners under age 40 honored by Law360 as Rising Stars.

The biggest case of his career:

Robb identified Verizon's defense against the General Access Solutions case as the most notable of his career. He and his team eliminated what had been an \$847 million patent infringement verdict from a federal jury in the Eastern District of Texas.

That verdict had been the largest of 2024 before U.S. District Judge Rodney Gilstrap set it aside in September of that year, writing that "the jury's verdict is against the great weight of the evidence to such a material degree that a new trial is necessary."

Robb said the dispute "had been a pretty intense case."

"We had the first jury trial that did not go our way," he said. "There's a fairly large verdict against us, which was obviously tough for a number of reasons, including that we had been really proud of the case we had put on and thought we tried a good case, thought our witnesses did well, and thought our facts were good, and the jury just didn't see it that way."

Facing this unideal outcome, Robb said that he and the team representing Verizon "stuck together, stayed positive and immediately pivoted the focus to, 'How do we change this; how do we fix it?'"

That doggedness resulted in Judge Gilstrap's decision to set aside the jury verdict, a rare step taken by federal judges. After jury

2026



Andrew Robb
Gibson Dunn

Age: 39

Home base: Palo Alto, California

Position: Partner

Law school: University of Chicago Law School

First job after law school: Associate at Gibson Dunn

selection in a new trial, the parties settled the case.

Another notable case:

Besides the Verizon verdict, Robb highlighted his representation of Uber in a case filed by Ikorongo Texas LLC, which accused the company of infringing patents on sharing computer usage experiences in Texas federal court. Ikorongo had also sued other companies, like Bumble, Samsung and LG.

Robb said that litigation was notable because Uber used an "old esoteric legal defense" known as the "original patent requirement," which calls for any invention in a reissue patent to be expressly disclosed in the written description of the original patent. Uber was the first of the defendants to deploy that argument, he said.

"We were really the only defendant who was focused on it at all," he said. "We ended up filing our motion just alone, and we're the only ones who filed it."

But the other defendants eventually embraced that argument and ended up invoking it in their litigation with Ikorongo, Robb said. While the case against Uber was transferred to California and dropped by Ikorongo in 2024, some of the other litigation kept going. The Federal Circuit declined to disturb the original patent requirement, and Ikorongo ended up taking the issue to the Supreme Court in its case against Bumble. The justices declined to take on the case.

Seeing other companies embrace Uber's original argument was satisfying, he said.

"It had really been our defense from the start, and it was really something that we had been pushing for somewhat independently," Robb said. "Then to see the other defendants buy in and sign off and file their own copycat motions, and then see that go all the way to the Federal Circuit and get affirmed, and have the whole set of cases resolved really was rewarding for our team, who, from the start, identified this as the defense that was going to win the case."

What motivates him:

There's something in the combination of storytelling and technology that Robb says motivates him in his day-to-day work. Whether making a case to a judge or a jury, Robb said it's a joy to identify the most compelling and effective narrative.

"Every case has a story, or multiple stories, that can be told from the facts," he said.

It's a "really fun challenge" to "understand the technology, how that works [and] how that fits into the story, and then try to understand the overall soup-to-nuts [of] what happened in the case and how we convince the decision-maker, whether that be the court or the jury, that our story is the right story," he added.

Intellectual property issues make trial work even more enjoyable, Robb said.

"Taking these really complicated technologies and making the story understandable and simple enough and come alive is a really fun challenge," Robb said.

Why he's an IP attorney:

Robb has a technical background, having majored in computer science as an undergraduate student at Claremont McKenna College. His interest in technology goes back a long time, he said.

"I had always liked math. It was something that I enjoyed," he added.

But the life of an engineer wasn't too attractive for him, Robb said, as he "was looking for something a little bit more dynamic, a little bit more varied" and allowed for him to work closely with people. IP litigation and the way it combines technology with people-facing work is a natural fit for him, he said.

"It was a way to combine the technology aspect of it with the human side and the dynamic of every case is different, and you have to learn new things and figure out how to explain new things," Robb said.

On the future of the industry:

Like many attorneys, Robb anticipates that the next 10 years will help decide the role that AI will play in the legal field. He compared the evolution of the technology and its emergence in the legal field to when legal search technologies like Westlaw emerged in the mid-2000s and revolutionized what it's like to work as a lawyer.

"More advanced search techniques for Westlaw came out that changed how attorneys performed legal research, and now we all take it for granted" that those tools exist and work well, he said.

But right now, AI is in the phase of its deployment where no one is quite sure how it slots in, he said. So lawyers are experimenting, and some of that experimenting is going well, while some of it has gone poorly and has attracted media attention as a result, Robb noted.

"I think that there's really not a consensus right now on what it can actually do, what it's good at, what it's not good at," he said. "And I think you're seeing a lot of experimentation."

--As told to Dani Kass. Editing by Alyssa Miller.

Law360's Rising Stars are attorneys under 40 whose legal accomplishments belie their age. A team of Law360 editors selected the 2026 Rising Stars winners after reviewing more than 1,100 submissions. Attorneys had to be under 40 as of April 30, 2026, to be eligible for this year's award.