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Top 100 Lawyers AND DISTINGUISHED COUNSEL



STUART ROSENBERG

GIBSON DUNN & CRUTCHER LLP
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
PALO ALTO

When Uniswap Labs was sued over patents its accusers said covered core inventions in decentralized finance, Stuart Rosenberg's team moved to challenge the patents almost immediately. They argued the claims covered an abstract idea about currency exchange rather than a technological improvement, and the case was dismissed at the pleading stage. *Bprotocol Foundation v. Universal Navigation Inc. d/b/a Uniswap*, 1:25-cv-04214 (S.D.N.Y., filed May 20, 2025).

"It was a significant win because it benefited the broader DeFi community, not just my client, by making clear that economic concepts used in DeFi are not patent-eligible, and that a plaintiff cannot target the DeFi community by obtaining patents that merely apply economic concepts on existing blockchain technology," Rosenberg said. The ruling drew coverage in the DeFi and crypto press, and Rosenberg, a partner at Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP, is now defending the win on appeal at the Federal Circuit.

The obstacle in that case was persuading the court that the patents, despite the technology surrounding cryptocurrency transactions, described nothing more than calculations of currency exchange rates. "We met that challenge by using the patents' own admissions about what was already known in the field — including blockchain technology, Ethereum, custom cryptocurrencies, etc. — and carefully walking through the patent claims to show that they don't purport to add anything except an allegedly new formula for calculating exchange rates," Rosenberg said.

Rosenberg joined Gibson Dunn's IP practice in the fall of 2005, drawn to IP litigation by a pull toward science and toward teaching. "Being an IP litigator gives me

the chance to talk directly to the engineers who are building amazing technology and then turn around and explain that technology to judges, juries and mediators in clear and simple terms, so I can help my clients win and resolve their cases," he said.

His first mentor at the firm was Denis Salmon, who led the IP practice at the time. "He taught me how to identify and zero in on the key issues in a case and avoid wasting time on side quests." Salmon, Rosenberg said, combined zealous advocacy with respect for opposing counsel.

Alongside the Uniswap matter, Rosenberg has handled a set of trade secret disputes involving semiconductor manufacturing equipment, with multiple trials scheduled over the coming year. He is also litigating a patent dispute at the International Trade Commission concerning electric vertical takeoff and landing aircraft.

"I try to treat every day as an opportunity to learn something new and to help my clients solve their problems, whether that means finding the next key argument that gives us the best chance to win the case, or finding the best path forward to a resolution so that my client can focus on its business without the distraction of litigation," Rosenberg said.