

## MVP: Jenner & Block's Alex Hadjis

By Dani Kass

*Law360 (September 7, 2021, 2:40 PM EDT)* -- Jenner & Block LLP partner Alex Hadjis helped Roku beat infringement claims in the first patent jury trial overseen by U.S. District Judge Alan Albright, earning the Washington, D.C.-based attorney a spot as one of Law360's 2021 Intellectual Property MVPs.

### ***HIS BIGGEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS THIS YEAR:***

Hadjis represented Roku Inc. in a \$41 million patent infringement suit brought by MV3 Partners LLC. The suit was a test for how patent trials could be conducted during a pandemic, and whether Judge Albright's Western District of Texas courtroom was going to be the plaintiffs haven many suspected. The full defense verdict came down in October, which Hadjis said was a relief, as Roku's entire product line was under scrutiny.

"We essentially delayed the trial month to month from June 2020 to October 2020," he said. "Because of all the delays, we ended up prepping in fits and starts before we ultimately went forward. We were able to work through all those challenges, including the challenges COVID threw at us, and ultimately, I can say I personally felt an immense amount of joy and pride when the judge read the complete noninfringement verdict that was handed to him by the jury."

### ***WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO ARGUE JUDGE ALBRIGHT'S FIRST PATENT TRIAL:***

The experience in Waco was "very exciting and very challenging," Hadjis said. While Judge Albright now has about a quarter of the country's new patent litigation, Hadjis said MV3 v. Roku was one of the first patent cases assigned to the judge when he assumed the bench in 2018.

"We were essentially doing groundbreaking work from the very beginning to the trial itself," he said. "The entire process was very new, and we were navigating uncharted waters. I think a lot of the things that we take for granted during our work litigating and ultimately trying cases in this instance were new in a very meaningful way and required additional attention, even something so simple as figuring out where to establish war room space and lodging."

### ***WHY HE'S AN IP ATTORNEY:***



Hadjis studied electrical engineering in college, but realized about halfway through that it's not the area he wanted to pursue. While deciding between law school and medical school, he talked with his uncle, who was then the chief patent counsel at the food company Borden.

"I talked to him about the practice of law and I found out very quickly that he really enjoyed being an attorney, and he really valued being an IP attorney," Hadjis said. "After speaking with him, I quickly realized that I did want to go into the law, and probably wanted to go into IP law. Our community is pretty small, so it was pretty amazing that I had somebody close to me that was squarely within this practice area that could advise me so clearly and with such an understanding."

***WHAT MOTIVATES HIM:***

Hadjis said he's motivated by the people he gets to work with, whether its representing clients as they pursue their interests or litigating against attorneys he admires.

"The work that I do is done in an adversarial context and the folks that I work with — or more accurately, against — tend to be very talented," he said. "I enjoy the challenge of working on a case against some of the talented attorneys that we work against when we litigate and try these complicated cases. I also really enjoy the team aspect of what we do. I have really valued and treasured that from the beginning. That's one of the reasons I like litigation the most: It's a team sport."

***HIS ADVICE FOR JUNIOR ATTORNEYS:***

Newer attorneys shouldn't underestimate smaller tasks like document review, Hadjis advised.

"Don't look past the little things that you are asked to do or that you have an opportunity to do as you grow and mature as an attorney," he said. "These things provide valuable insight and experience into what you'll ultimately need to do as a more senior attorney when you take on more responsibility and roles directly with a client overseeing a team."

— *As told to Dani Kass*

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