

Moving Swiftly to Prevent the Misappropriation of Valuable Trade Secrets

Client:	LG Electronics MobileComm U.S.A., Inc.
Industry:	Technology
Area of Law:	Trade secrets
Venue:	California Superior Court, San Diego
Result:	The destruction of all trade secret information and a permanent injunction covering both the former employee and his new employer

When a key LG Electronics MobileComm U.S.A. employee suddenly left the company with valuable trade secrets concerning new cell phones under development, the client turned to Pillsbury for assistance in responding to this corporate crisis.

The wheels of justice may be proverbially slow, but the result obtained by Pillsbury for this South Korean electronics trendsetter was not. The time from initial contact to the issuance of a temporary restraining order was only four court days.

Further investigation determined the former employee had lied about his new employer—he was actually joining a direct competitor at the height of the bidding wars for customers. Not only did he know LG’s product line and development pipeline, he was a team leader for the key customers for whom the new cell phones were being designed. The former employee’s offer letter from his new employer further revealed his new compensation was to be directly based on the business he took from LG. Forensic analysis of the employee’s personal electronic devices and those he used at his new job quickly led to even more evidence of wrongdoing.

Following the Court’s observation that Pillsbury had proven a classic case of trade secret theft, Pillsbury convinced LG’s former employee and his new employer to destroy all evidence of LG’s trade secrets and to agree to a permanent injunction prohibiting their use.

