

# Orrick Boosts Tech Litigation Practice With Another Durie Tangri Litigator

**Orrick's litigation practice advised more S&P 500 tech companies than any other firm in 2021, according to litigation leader Jess Perry.**

**By Jessie Yount**

Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe has hired Durie Tangri litigator Ben Au, as the firm continues to chart growth in tandem with its tech clients in Santa Monica.

Au, who starts at the firm this week, was a partner at Durie Tangri between 2016 and 2022, where he served as a founding member of the tech litigation boutique's Los Angeles office. He was previously a shareholder at Caldwell Leslie & Proctor (a boutique that merged with Boies Schiller & Flexner in 2017) and an associate at Kecker & Van Nest.

Au described Orrick's tech litigation practice as a "glass slipper," noting that the firm's client base of emerging companies and venture funds is similar to his own.

At his former firm, Au represented three of the top-10 global tech companies by market cap. His practice focuses on both civil and criminal matters such as trade secrets, founder disputes, and breach of contract for emerging companies and venture funds.

In 2021, Orrick's litigation practice advised more S&P 500 tech companies than any other firm as well as a large number of other venture-backed companies, according to litigation leader Jess Perry.

"Our goal is to build on the strength of the Orrick platform, particularly as we experience more demand in litigation and IP," Perry said, noting a convergence of factors such as courts reopening, pandemic-related disputes and increased



Courtesy photo

**Ben Au of Orrick.**

regulatory enforcement fueling demand.

Perry said Orrick is well-positioned to respond to demand due to its balanced portfolio. Litigation and regulatory matters make up about half of the firm's revenue, and 99% of the firm's top 100 public companies are served by its litigation, regulatory and corporate teams.

Au is the first litigator to join the firm's Silicon Beach outpost. The extension of Orrick's downtown Los Angeles office has more than doubled in head count since it opened in 2017 with 13 lawyers; it now has roughly three dozen lawyers including eight partners.

"Ben advances our strategy to be a tech player in Southern California, as someone who is well-versed in the tech ecosystem and understands the

problems of those clients and how to solve them," Perry said, noting that he is the ninth litigation partner to join the firm since the start of 2021.

Au is reuniting with his former partner Clem Roberts, a founding partner of Durie Tangri who joined Orrick in 2018 and now serves as head of the IP litigation practice.

Au noted that Orrick's tech practice in Santa Monica has

expanded rapidly, as the firm seeks to create a holistic offering for local clients. For his part, he said, "I'm excited to enhance the litigation offerings. Tech clients need trusted advisers to help them navigate critical, strategic issues with a business-sensitive approach," Au said.

Durie Tangri did not immediately respond to request for comment on the departure.