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## Dickinson Wright Nabs Cross-Border Products Pro In Toronto

By **Megan Stride**

Law360, Chicago (February 21, 2013, 2:46 PM ET) -- Dickinson Wright LLP has snapped up a products liability and marketing specialist from Canadian firm Miller Thomson for its Toronto office, bulking up its expertise in cross-border regulatory issues for consumer products, the firm said last week.

Wendy Hulton joined Dickinson Wright as a partner, bringing more than two decades of experience in the products regulation arena. She focuses her practice on advising manufacturers, retailers and importers from a slew of industries on regulatory compliance, product recalls, manufacturing and distribution deals, and advertising and promotions, among other issues, the firm said Feb. 14.

Hulton told Law360 on Thursday that after nearly 25 years at Miller Thomson, it was time to move her practice to a "cutting-edge" firm like Dickinson Wright that has the ability to service clients operating on both sides of the U.S.-Canada border.

"I think Dickinson Wright is sort of the wave of the future," she said, adding that the firm's existing cross-border services fit well with her practice focused on counseling companies, especially those based in the U.S., on bringing their products and services to the Canadian market and then tackling product liability and recall issues that may arise later.

Hulton's client roster has included companies in the automotive, broadcasting, dietary supplement, medical device, food, pharmaceutical, tobacco, pet product, natural health product and cosmetics industries, among others.

She represents clients in negotiations with government regulators like the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and Health Canada, and also provides guidance on requirements under the Canada Consumer Product Safety Act and that country's anti-spam legislation, Food and Drugs Act, Consumer Packaging and Labeling Act, Competition Act and Textile Labeling Act, among other statutes, according to the firm.

Dickinson Wright's new partner also counsels global clients on privacy issues, e-commerce, product licensing, cross-border recalls, product packaging and labeling, social media, gift card promotions and comparative advertising, the firm said.

On Thursday, Hulton pointed to her new firm's strong presence in Michigan, where it has six offices, and said that factor would be boon to her practice because much of the U.S.'s trade with Canada channels through that Great Lakes state.

Hulton is not the only products liability partner to have found a new professional home in recent days.

On Tuesday, Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP said Christine Burkhart had joined its Las Vegas office as a partner from Wolfe & Wyman LLP. Burkhart focuses her practice on general liability and casualty, construction defects, product and premises liability, and transportation, according to her firm.

Also on Tuesday, Hogan Lovells announced that it had boosted its government regulatory practice by adding former Sidley Austin LLP counsel Gary L. Veron, who represents pharmaceutical, biotechnology and medical device companies in matters before the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and other agencies.

Sedgwick LLP also said earlier this week that it was adding eight new partners with environmental, product liability, and labor and employment expertise, as the entire team of attorneys from Brown Eassa & McLeod LLP is set to move to its San Francisco and Los Angeles offices March 1.

Dickinson Wright was founded in Detroit in 1878 and now has roughly 350 lawyers practicing in more than 40 practice areas, according to its website.

The firm has offices in Detroit; Ann Arbor, Grand Rapids, Lansing, Saginaw and Troy, Mich.; Columbus, Ohio; Las Vegas; Nashville, Tenn.; Phoenix; Toronto; and Washington.

--Additional reporting by Gavin Broady and Sean McLernon. Editing by Richard McVay.