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ADDUCI MASTRIANI & SCHAUMBERG

History will remember U.S. Sen. Reed Smoot and U.S. Rep. Willis Hawley for a 1930 law that raised tariffs and is blamed for helping to accelerate the Great Depression. The tariffs are long gone, but Section 337 of the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act has emerged as a giant hammer for technology companies in the patent wars over mobile devices.

It's also been a bonanza for Washington-based Adduci, Mastriani & Schaumberg, a firm long established in what has become the preferred forum for these battles: the once sleepy International Trade Commission (ITC).

"The last four to five years, things have taken off like a skyrocket," said V. James Adduci II, a co-founder of the firm. "The ITC has become the hottest forum for litigating IP rights of U.S. and foreign companies."

Adduci Mastriani has mirrored that growth; the 26-lawyer firm boasts the most trade lawyers under one roof in the United States, elbowing out general-practice giants such as Atlanta-based Alston & Bird and intellectual property heavyweights like Fish & Richardson and Washington's Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner to become the biggest player before the ITC. Adduci Mastriani led in ITC filings from 2008 through 2010, according to *IP Law & Business* and *Corporate Counsel*, affiliates of *The National Law Journal*. By its own count, during the 23 months ending in November, its lawyers worked on one-third of the cases before the commission.

The ITC's commissioners regularly decide cases affecting billions of dollars in trade for mobile phone companies, GPS manufacturers and other electronics firms. The body handles a quarter of all patent trials in the United States, and the number of investigations it has begun increased by 37 percent during 2011, to 70.

Adduci Mastriani had humble beginnings. Adduci and partner Louis Mastriani had worked together at the ITC during the late 1970s before deciding to go out on their own in 1981. "I was 28, with a baby about to happen, no money, no business," Adduci said. "We started the firm and we starved for a while and we decided our niche is going to be what it remains: international trade."