

# A VIRTUAL IP LITIGATION BOUTIQUE?

BY ALAN COOPER

► **THAT'S THE IDEA BEHIND THE XDL GROUP, WHICH INCLUDES SUCH PROMINENT VIRGINIA LAWYERS AS WYATT B. DURRETTE JR. OF DURRETTEBRADSHAW AND CHARLES M. ALLEN OF GOODMAN, ALLEN & FILLETTI OF RICHMOND.**

Other members are Richard L. Coffman from Beaumont, Texas; Kenneth Olsen from Pound Ridge, N.Y.; Dale C. Hogue from Hilton Head, S.C.; his son, Curtis Hogue, from Durham, N.C.; James Creekmore from Daleville; and Durette's associate, Christine A. Williams.

Durette said another small firm with a West Coast presence is expected to join the group shortly.

He said Dale Hogue and he are longtime friends, and the concept grew out of Hogue's observation that few true intellectual property lawyers have much courtroom experience. On the other hand, few top litigators are skilled in the nuances of IP law.

Durette and Hogue illustrate that dichotomy, with Durette having vast experience as a litigator, including a successful patent trial in Minnesota recently, and Hogue having spent much of his career advising clients on IP matters.

The group has set up a slick Web site, [xdlgroup.com](http://xdlgroup.com), with the capacity to manage cases online and set up extranet communications with clients.

Coffman in eastern Texas, the younger Hogue in the Research Triangle and the Virginia lawyers in the Eastern District of Virginia give the group a presence in three intellectual property hotbeds, Durette said.

Durette said the firm operates truly virtually with no central office and face-to-face meetings of the members only a few times a year. But modern technology makes it



**XDL GROUP**  
MULTI-DIMENSIONAL IP ADVOCATES

possible for group members to confer frequently and manage cases together even if they are not in the same physical location.

**“THAT GIVES US THE MANPOWER, THE WOMANPOWER, AND THE BRAIN POWER”**

Especially with the addition of two lawyers expected to join the group shortly, “that gives us the manpower, the womanpower, the brainpower” to try “a case that would be difficult for any one of us to handle,” Durette said.

The group has had its Web site only since May, and Durette said he is encouraged by the amount of traffic it is getting and by the response of prospective clients.

Durette said the group has had serious discussions with several of those clients, but no one has retained it yet. Most of those prospective clients wanted the group to take on their cases on a contingency basis, which the group has been reluctant to do. The group has considered hybrid compensation arrangements, however, he said.