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Crowell & Moring Adds Energy Attorneys In 2 Offices

By Jack Rodgers

Law360 (December 20, 2022, 12:32 AM EST) -- Crowell & Moring LLP has added a pair of energy attorneys to its partnership, one of whom worked as energy counsel to the House of Representatives' Committee on Energy and Commerce, the firm announced Tuesday.

Tyler O'Connor, who the firm credits with authoring many key energy provisions in the Inflation Reduction Act and the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act, will rejoin the firm's practice in Washington, D.C. Sam Edwards will join the firm's corporate group in Denver, Colorado, with a practice focusing on representing clients in the energy and technology industries, the firm said.

O'Connor and Edwards join the firm as partners. O'Connor, who at the House's Energy and Commerce committee worked as the lead energy lawyer, oversaw issues related to the Federal Power Act and the Natural Gas Act in his role with the committee, according to the firm. His work at the committee also included working as the primary committee staffer overseeing energy cybersecurity, supply chain investment and other issues, the firm said.

O'Connor first started with Crowell & Moring in 2013, when he joined as a summer associate. After graduating from Emory University School of Law in 2014 and completing a judicial clerkship with Judge Catharina Haynes for the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, he rejoined Crowell & Moring, where he worked until joining the committee in 2021, according to his LinkedIn profile.

In a statement, O'Connor said he was "thrilled to return to Crowell & Moring and reunite with my former colleagues."

"I look forward to drawing on my energy industry and Hill experience to help clients navigate the energy transition, engage with federal officials and, when necessary, successfully resolve whatever disputes might arise along the way," he said.

At Crowell & Moring, O'Connor will help advise a range of clients in the energy, automotive and manufacturing industries on how to best capitalize on federal investment from the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act. That includes helping those clients work with the federal government, and assisting the firm's cybersecurity and trade practices on trade barriers and related threats, the firm said.

Kirsten L. Nathanson, co-chairwoman of the firm's environment, energy and natural resources group, lauded O'Connor's return to the firm in a statement, and Jim Flood, chairman of the firm's government

affairs group, said O'Connor's experience would be invaluable to the firm's clients.

"His direct involvement in the creation and passage of the IRA and IIJA — combined with his relationships with House leaders, federal agency officials, and industry stakeholders — adds great value to our team and demonstrates that he not only knows the law and the key decision makers, but can also identify the significant opportunities and pathways available to our clients," Flood said in a statement.

Edwards joins the firm after a more than 17-year career with Holland & Hart LLP in Denver, according to his LinkedIn profile. His practice focuses on representing companies that deal with highly regulated new energy infrastructure issues, like decarbonization and other energy transition legal issues, the firm said.

His practice also includes corporate transactional work like mergers & acquisitions, private financing and joint ventures. Some of his advisory work in the corporate space includes working with a clean cement company focused on project development and an early stage group focused on making low-cost renewable hydrogen from waste redirection, the firm said.

In a statement, Edwards said that it was an exciting time to work as a corporate attorney, "especially one dealing at the intersection of renewable energy infrastructure and innovation."

"I look forward to contributing to the Denver office's continuing growth and to working with the firm's talented team to help clients tackle the shifting landscape of regulation and guide companies to global success with our deep regulatory and government contracts experience," he said in a statement.

Edwards studied economics at Harvard University before earning his law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law in 2005, according to his LinkedIn profile.

Sam Feigin, co-chairman of the firm's corporate group, said Edwards' experience would help guide clients through those critical transactions and "will be a boon to our clients." Meshach Rhoades, managing partner of the firm's Denver office, said Edwards was a strategic addition to an office where the firm is "expanding our corporate practice, including in the energy space."

"As a well-rounded corporate lawyer with substantial experience in the M&A, financing, commercial contracting and corporate governance domains, he will help cement and grow our presence in the fast-growing tech metropolis," she said in a statement.

Recently in D.C., Crowell & Moring also added a former Ascension Health Alliance senior attorney, Kristy Wrigley-Durer, to its tax, labor and employment, and corporate practices.

--Editing by Emily Kokoll.

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