

## **CLIENT ALERT**

### **Equality For All - OMB Instructs Agencies To Ignore GAO And Give Equal Consideration To Three SBA Programs**

**July 23, 2009**

On July 10, 2009, OMB instructed agencies to continue to adhere to the SBA's "parity" regulations despite two recent GAO decisions-*Mission Critical Solutions*, 2009 CPD ¶ 93, and *Int'l Program Group, Inc.*, 2008 CPD ¶ 172-that required agencies to prioritize Historically Underutilized Business Zone ("HUBZone") small businesses over 8(a) Program participants and Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Businesses in satisfying the agencies' acquisition requirements. OMB explained that the GAO decisions were not binding and instead instructed agencies to consider multiple small business programs pursuant to their existing contracting practices and the SBA's "parity" policies.

For more information, please contact the professional(s) listed below, or your regular Crowell & Moring contact.

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