

## CLIENT ALERT

### Government Contracts at the High Court

March 24, 2011

On February 28, 2011, the Supreme Court heard arguments in *Stanford Junior Univ. v. Roche Molecular Sys., Inc.*, on the issue of whether a federal contractor's rights to an invention under the Bayh-Dole Act, 35 U.S.C. §§ 200-12, are trumped by a contractor-employee inventor's prior assignment to a third party of title to the same invention. As discussed in the March 14, 2011, *BNA's Federal Contracts Report* article "High Noon for Bayh-Dole?" by C&M's John McCarthy and Jon Baker, if upheld, contractors performing federally funded R&D work will need to be diligent to ensure that the assignments they receive from their employee-inventors do not take a back seat to any assignment agreements between their employee-inventors and third parties.

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

**John E. McCarthy Jr.**

Partner – Washington, D.C.  
Phone: +1.202.624.2579  
Email: [jmccarthy@crowell.com](mailto:jmccarthy@crowell.com)

**Jonathan M. Baker**

Partner – Washington, D.C.  
Phone: +1.202.624.2641  
Email: [jbaker@crowell.com](mailto:jbaker@crowell.com)