



Crowell Connect

Summer 2026

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Welcome to Our Summer Issue!

In this issue, we share exciting updates from across the firm and our alumni community. We take you inside Crowell's new Washington, D.C. headquarters at 600 Fifth, celebrate the recipients of our 27th annual George Bailey Public Service Awards, mark the opening of our new Minneapolis office, and more.

We hope these updates help keep you connected to the firm and to each other. As always, please feel free to send us your news or suggestions for future features at alumni@crowell.com. Thank you for being part of our extended Crowell community.



Phil Inglima
Chair, Management Board



Chahira Solh
Chair, Executive Committee

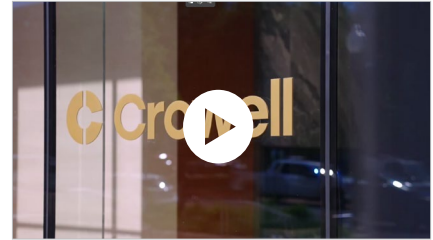
FIRM HIGHLIGHTS

A New Home in the Heart of Washington, D.C.

After nearly 40 years at 1001 Pennsylvania Avenue, we have officially moved into a new Washington, D.C. home. We now occupy the top six floors of 600 Fifth, the recently redeveloped former headquarters of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority in the heart of Penn Quarter.

The new space was designed with collaboration and culture at its core. A vertical campus concept connects floors via internal staircases, while living walls, art installations, and plenty of access to light make the space feel warm, welcoming, and distinctly Crowell.

If you are local to D.C. or your business travels take you there, we hope you can stop by to check out the new space, particularly those of you who walked the halls of 1001 Penn for years.



Check out [this video](#) to learn more about the space.



Congratulations to Crowell Partner Jennifer Romano on Her Judicial Appointment



We are delighted to congratulate Crowell partner Jennifer Romano on her appointment to the Los Angeles Superior Court.

During her tenure at Crowell, Jennifer distinguished herself through an unwavering commitment to legal excellence, integrity, and the highest standards of the profession. Her dedication to the law was evident in everything she did, and she leaves behind a lasting impression on her colleagues and clients alike.

We are proud to count Jennifer among the accomplished alumni who have called Crowell home, and we have no doubt that she will bring that same dedication to her new role. Please join us in wishing her every success in this well-deserved new chapter of her legal career.

FIRM HIGHLIGHTS

George Bailey Public Service Awards

This spring, we hosted our 27th annual George Bailey Public Service Awards ceremony, named after the hero of the classic movie "It's a Wonderful Life." The awards recognize the firm's lawyers and staff who have made a substantial impact on the lives of others through their pro bono efforts.

The recipients honored include:

- Partners: [Warrington Parker](#) (San Francisco); [Christian Curran](#) (Washington, D.C.)
- Senior Counsel: [Beth Hecker](#) (Washington, D.C.); [Aaron Marx](#) (Washington, D.C.)
- Counsel: [Derick Dailey](#) (New York); [Emily Tucker](#) (Washington, D.C.)
- Associates: [Tai Williams](#) (Washington, D.C.); [Emily Strickland](#) (New York)
- Rookie of the Year: **Natalia Rojas-England** (Orange County)
- Practice Support: **Meredith Greisman** (New York); **Rayline Petitt** (Washington, D.C.)
- Professional Staff: **Amelia Parizek** (Washington, D.C.); **Tomas Leen** (New York)
- International: [Sam Cooper](#) (London)

We are deeply proud of all the nominees and grateful for the lasting impact they have made on our communities through their pro bono service and commitment. Their dedication embodies the spirit of George Bailey and the values we cherish at Crowell. To learn more about Crowell's pro bono efforts, click [here](#).

Crowell Opens Office in Minneapolis

This May, we officially opened our doors in Minneapolis, Minnesota, marking our 13th office location and continuing the firm's exciting growth momentum following last year's openings in Boston and Dallas.

The Minneapolis-St. Paul area is a powerhouse market, home to the headquarters of 17 *Fortune* 500 companies, and a place where Crowell already has strong client relationships. The new office hit the ground running with eight lawyers, with a focus on our regulatory, enforcement, and litigation strengths in health care, antitrust and competition, and labor and employment.

Leading the charge is Partner [Toni Michelle Jackson](#), chair of the firm's State Attorneys General Group, who serves as office managing partner. She is joined by Partner [Jeffrey Gleason](#), Senior Counsel [Ryan Marth](#), Counsels [Charlene Sun](#) and [Donna Reuter](#), and Associates [Matthew Leighton](#), [Erica Schultz](#), [Dominik Ruch](#), and [Brent Murcia](#).

Click [here](#) to read the press release announcing the firm's new office.



"The opening of an office in Minneapolis reflects an appreciation of the value of being close to clients to better understand their complex and evolving business needs. It's also a recognition of the importance of the Minneapolis market and the opportunity to continue to expand our Upper Midwest footprint."

—Toni Michelle Jackson, managing partner of Crowell's Minneapolis office

NEW FACES

Recent Lateral Partners

We are thrilled to highlight the lateral partners who have joined the firm since April:



Lauren Cuyvers

[Lauren](#) joined Crowell as a partner in our Privacy and Cybersecurity Group in Brussels. She focuses her practice on strategic cross-border compliance, regulatory enforcement,

and litigation related to EU data privacy and cybersecurity laws. Her practice covers the full spectrum of, and strategic interactions among, the GDPR, EUDPR, ePrivacy Directive, EU AI Act, EU Data Act, EHDS, EU Cyber Resilience Act, EU NIS2 Directive, and EU DORA. In recognition of her work, she has been named one of *Lawdragon's* 500 Leading Global Cyber Lawyers 2026. Prior to joining Crowell, Lauren was a senior attorney at a leading global law firm, where she built her privacy and cybersecurity practice. Prior to commencing her career in private practice, Lauren served as an assistant attaché at the Permanent Mission of Belgium to the United Nations in New York.



Steven Chiu

[Steve](#) joined Crowell as a partner in the Health Care Group in Los Angeles. At Crowell, Steve is expanding the firm's managed care regulatory practice in California and nationwide, advising

sophisticated health care clients in one of the most complex regulatory environments. His experience providing counsel to clients on a full range of regulatory, compliance, enforcement, and litigation matters provides significant value to health care clients and further strengthens the firm's client service in the competitive California market. Steve joins Crowell from Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, where he built a broad regulatory practice that counseled clients across the diverse and evolving health care landscape.



Steve Raptis

[Steve](#) joined Crowell as a partner in Washington, D.C., further bolstering the firm's growing insurance recovery practice. For more than 30 years, Steve has advocated for policyholder

clients throughout the country, helping them recover hundreds of millions of dollars in insurance proceeds, both in and out of litigation. He helps clients find strategic and creative solutions to disputed insurance claims, including focused negotiations and mediation, to maximize their recoveries while minimizing their costs. Through strategic analysis and advocacy, Steve regularly secures reversals of adverse coverage determinations without litigation. When necessary, he aggressively litigates coverage lawsuits in state and federal courts throughout the country. Steve joins Crowell from Reed Smith, where he was a partner in the firm's Insurance Recovery practice.



Jamie Bair

[Jamie](#) joined Crowell as a partner in the White Collar and Regulatory Enforcement Group, where he leads the firm's Congressional Investigations Practice. He brings more than a decade

of experience handling high-profile congressional oversight matters, having served as in-house counsel to a Fortune 10 technology company, a senior congressional investigator, a federal executive branch attorney, and at a major international law firm. Jamie has cutting-edge experience on issues ranging from artificial intelligence and national security to global elections integrity and online content moderation, as well as a sophisticated understanding of the legal, political, and media landscape both in the U.S. and abroad. Prior to joining Crowell, Jamie served as Regulatory Affairs Counsel for Global Legislative Oversight at Google/Alphabet. Before Google/Alphabet, he was Senior Counsel for Oversight and Investigations at the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

IN MEMORIUM

The Honorable Rosemary Collyer



It is with deep admiration that Crowell & Moring honors the life and legacy of the **Honorable Rosemary Collyer**, former judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, who passed away June 7, 2026. Judge Collyer was the first woman to lead a major Washington law firm when she became chair of Crowell in 1995.

An honors graduate of Trinity College in Washington, D.C., and the University of Denver Law School, Judge Collyer began her career in Denver in 1977, before becoming chair of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission in 1981, and then the general counsel of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) in 1984. In 1989, she became a Crowell partner and served as a member of the firm's Management Committee (now Management

Board) from 1993 to 2002. Judge Collyer was a leading partner in the firm's Labor and Employment Group and blazed a path followed by subsequent generations of Crowell lawyers.

In 2002, Judge Collyer was appointed to the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia by President George W. Bush. She took senior status in 2016 and served with distinction until 2020, including seven years of service on the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, for which she was presiding judge for three years. In the words of Chief Judge Jeb Boasberg, "Judge Collyer was a trailblazer, a mentor, and a highly respected jurist."

Both at Crowell and at the court, Judge Collyer was a mentor to many and a role model to us all. We all stand on the shoulders of great lawyers and leaders who came before us. At Crowell, we stand on the shoulders of Rosemary Collyer. We owe her our gratitude and admiration, and a commitment to do the same for the generations that follow us.



Alumni on the Move

Below is a short collection of updates on some of our alumni, but we would love to include more! Have you recently changed jobs, started a business, or been promoted? Drop us a line at alumni@crowell.com and let us know what you're up to so we can share with this community!

- **Jessie Kirchner** (Washington, D.C., 2011–2015) was recently appointed by Governor Gretchen Whitmer to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.
- **Ryan Lance** (Cheyenne, 2013–2016) is now general counsel at DISA Technologies, Inc.
- **Matthew Pelter** (San Francisco, 2020–2022) is now part of the legal team at Mercor.
- **Christine Reddy** (Washington, D.C., 1998–2000) is now general counsel at White Cap.
- **Brian Roemer** (Washington, D.C., 2004–2011) is now general counsel at Public Consulting Group.
- **Zach Ruby** (Washington, D.C., 2018–2022) is now senior litigation counsel at Group 14 Technologies.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Alexis DeBernardis

Alexis spent 12 years at Crowell before making the leap in-house, first to Honeywell and then to Solstice, the spinoff where she now serves as Chief Compliance Officer. She sat down with us to talk about a career path that has been anything but straight, the people who shaped that path, and her stubborn belief that “just keep going” might be the most underrated advice in the business.



Walk us through your career path, from law school, to Crowell, to where you are now.

My career has been anything but linear. I went to law school certain I would end up a corporate lawyer, possibly specializing in tax. I spent my second-year summer in New York City at Schulte Roth & Zabel (now McDermott Will & Schulte) where I connected with a great group of corporate restructuring attorneys. I returned after graduation and quickly found that I genuinely loved the work.

Then life intervened in the best way: my husband proposed, and we decided to base our life together in D.C. The kind of restructuring work I had been doing was largely concentrated in New York, but I found a foothold at Crowell in a small financial services group that touched on similar issues. That's where I landed and where my path began to shift.

At Crowell, I said yes to an opportunity with the Antitrust and Competition Group with a telecom deal review. What started as a one-off assignment turned into something more substantial, and before long, I joined the group full-time. It wasn't part of any grand plan. Instead, I followed what I found engaging and gravitated toward people whose work and perspective I respected.

That mindset was shaped in large part by my former Crowell colleague **Brinkley Tappan**, a friend then and still a mentor now, who encouraged me to “optimize for interesting.” It's the best career advice I've received. Careers are long and unpredictable, and you rarely know what's around the corner. Saying yes to antitrust law opened the door to entirely new areas of learning and opportunity. Looking back, I'm certain that without that willingness to follow what intrigued me, I wouldn't have found my way to those experiences.

What prompted the move in-house?

I had considered going in-house a couple years before I left. It was on the heels of an internal investigation matter with [Randy Smith](#), [Peter Eyre](#), and [Kent Gardiner](#): a client offered me an in-house move during COVID. It was incredibly tempting. It was a senior enough role, I knew the team, and I knew the work would be interesting. During that matter, I was intrigued with how the client was translating our legal — and sometimes commercial — advice into practice at the company. We were working very closely with the client, sitting onsite with their team for long days, and I was getting to see some of the in-house dynamics at work.

I called Randy, Peter, and Kent and said, “I have this offer. I'm not trying to leverage it, but it would be impossible for me not to consider it.” I appreciated that they didn't treat this as an ultimatum; instead, they worked with me to create a more enriching experience at the firm. That's one of the most dynamic parts of Crowell: its agility. If you settle in with the right people, demonstrate rapport, and build a reputation, a lot of tailoring can happen for your career.

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Fast forward to fall of 2022: I was talking with a friend about our respective careers when I came to the conclusion I should consider leaving private practice. I knew that I could easily spend the rest of my career at Crowell, but I also wondered if there might be more dimension to my practice, and if so, where I could find it. Brinkley’s advice came back to me. Luckily enough, Honeywell reached out a few months later in the spring. It moved very quickly, and my first day at Honeywell was in June of that same year.

You’ve mentioned several people who were meaningful to your career. Who have been the most significant mentors and influences?

I made so many good friends at Crowell, all of whom are important to me.

Without [Megan Wolf](#), I don’t think I would have stayed at Crowell as long as I did. We were in the trenches together on some big deals, and she demonstrated to me what it means to be a teammate, both professionally and personally.

Peter Eyre spoke for me — sometimes louder than folks in my own group did. He is good at recognizing and nurturing talent, and he showed me another style of career model within a law firm.

And of course, **Randy** and **Kent**. Randy is excellent at relating to clients, distilling complicated and stressful scenarios into navigable situations. He modeled a great example, and I paid attention. To this day, I have yet to meet anyone who thinks like Kent. I learned a lot watching him work through issues, and he gave me the opportunity and confidence to expand into my role with the client. Without that, I don’t know that I would have gone in-house.

And there are of course others, like [Addie Cliffe](#) and **Kristen Walker**, whose friendship transcended the four walls of our office.

What skills did you develop at Crowell that have most served you in an in-house role?

Private practice instills precision and expediency. Knowing how to turn around answers quickly, and when to manage expectations when issues require more time, is a large part of client touch. You still have clients in-house, and those skills drove a lot of my early in-house success.

The Antitrust Group also had associates and counsel present regularly at group lunches. That little bit of public speaking and presentation experience proved invaluable.

Management skills also have absolutely translated. Learning how to manage people who think differently from me and figuring out my own style meant that, by the time I went in-house, I was more comfortable as a leader and manager.

You moved to Honeywell and then became Chief Compliance Officer for Solstice, the spinoff. What was that process like?

In fall of 2024, it became clear that Honeywell was going to split into three companies. I went into the reorganization assuming my path was obvious: my background was in aerospace and defense, and I was all but certain I’d go with that business as the antitrust subject matter expert.

Then I was asked to consider a role with the spinoff of our specialty chemicals business. It wasn’t my wheelhouse, and my instinct was to pass. But the opportunity kept pulling at me. The role was broad, the team was mine to build, and I had people who believed I could grow into it. That stuck with me. I didn’t need to be the expert on day one; I needed judgment, curiosity, and the right people around me.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: ALEXIS DEBERNARDIS, CONTINUED

“... I reframed the decision: not ‘what do I know now?’ but ‘what’s most interesting?’ I said yes. It was a bet on myself in a space that felt uncertain. And it is shaping up to be the kind of risk that moves a career forward.”

So I reframed the decision: not “what do I know now?” but “what’s most interesting?” I said yes. It was a bet on myself in a space that felt uncertain. And it is shaping up to be the kind of risk that moves a career forward.

How do you make time for yourself?

For me, balance is a matter of setting and keeping boundaries. I make time for things that help me reset — reading, playing tennis, and being present for my family — and I treat that time as non-negotiable. It’s not always a strict schedule because there is always an unusual circumstance — a new contract, a late meeting, an event at school, a game for one of my children. I try to be deliberate about where my attention goes. Protecting that space makes me more focused and effective at work and minimizes (I hope!) the time I feel pulled in multiple directions.

What is the one strength you have relied on the most?

It would have to be resilience. I’ve had setbacks, but I’ve tried to embrace them as learning opportunities. I often zoom out and ask myself how to take advantage of each opportunity, even if it will be short-lived.

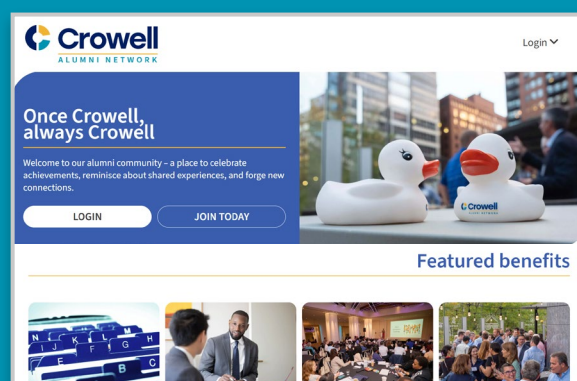
Sometimes you’re not sure your career is going the right way. But if you look for the stepping stones — and in my career, these have most often been people — it delivers you somewhere better.

Finally, where do you see your career going from here?

In a recent conversation with my boss, our General Counsel, about where to focus to get to the next step, the discussion prompted me to think more carefully about what I actually want that next step to be. I’m not sure I’m aiming for his role — at least, not right now — and that perspective may evolve over time. What does interest me is getting closer to the business itself and playing a more direct role in shaping strategy and growth. I had a chance at Honeywell to step in as advisor to the Chief Strategy Officer for a period, and I found that work especially compelling. It brought together M&A and deal-making with broader, organic growth strategies, and it’s the kind of intersection I’d like to continue exploring. But honestly? I intend to deploy the same philosophy that’s gotten me here: follow the interesting, find the right people, and stay open to wherever the stepping stones lead.

Coming Soon: Alumni Microsite

We are thrilled to announce that we are launching an alumni microsite this fall! The password-protected site will be your all-in-one resource for upcoming firm and alumni-specific events, CLE resources, a job board to highlight both Crowell jobs and marketplace openings, and an alumni directory. We are excited about the site and hope that it is a useful tool for you. Stay tuned for more information!



EVENTS

Summer Associate Alumni Perspectives Panel

Crowell recently hosted a virtual panel bringing together three distinguished alumni to speak with this year's summer associates about their career journeys, the skills they developed at the firm, and the lessons they carry with them today. The discussion was moderated by [Agustin Orozco](#), partner in the White Collar and Government Contracts groups and managing partner of the Los Angeles office.

Meet the Panelists

- **Lauren Aronson** is director and senior counsel at Mondelez International, supporting brands including Clif Bar, Ritz, and belVita on advertising and marketing matters. She joined Crowell in 2016 and practiced in the D.C. Advertising and Marketing Group.
- **Ryan Wong** is senior associate general counsel for Litigation at United Health Group, where he oversees complex defensive, commercial, consumer, and antitrust litigation and government investigations work. He spent approximately seven years at Crowell, primarily in the Antitrust Group in the Orange County office.
- **Matthew Vicinanza** is an assistant U.S. attorney for the District of New Hampshire, focusing on child exploitation, human trafficking, and criminal healthcare fraud. He joined Crowell as a first-year associate in 2017 in the Government Contracts, Health Care, and False Claims Act Groups, ultimately becoming counsel before joining the DOJ in 2024.

Career Journeys and Mentorship

A unifying theme across all three panelists was that their careers evolved organically, shaped more by relationships and curiosity than by rigid plans. Ryan gravitated toward antitrust as a summer associate and never looked back. Lauren followed her passion for advertising and marketing law across several firms before landing at Crowell and later used client secondments to gain invaluable in-house

perspective. Matt's path to the DOJ was driven by a desire to move back to New Hampshire to raise his family, a decision met with full support from firm leadership, which he cited as a reflection of Crowell's culture.

All three credited mentors and sponsors as central to their growth. Matt pointed to [Tully McLaughlin](#), [Jason Crawford](#), and [Michael Shaheen](#), among others. Lauren highlighted [Dave Ervin](#), [Cheri Falvey](#), and Crowell's formal sponsorship program, through which she worked with [Kent Gardiner](#) and [Glen McGorty](#). Ryan recognized [Chahira Solh](#) and [Beatrice Nguyen](#) for entrusting him with meaningful work that built his real-world skills.

Skills That Travel

The panelists converged on several skills Crowell instilled in them that continue to define their practice: tailoring communication to your audience, making clear recommendations backed by data, understanding the business context behind every legal question, preparing thoroughly, writing concisely, and treating everyone, from partners to paralegals, as an internal client.

On Culture

When asked what Crowell did particularly well, the answers were consistent: a collegial environment free of internal competition, a spirit of volunteerism, and lawyers who genuinely care about their relationships and take ownership of their work.

We are deeply grateful to Lauren, Ryan, and Matt for so generously sharing their time, candor, and hard-won insights with our summer associates. A special thank you as well to Agustin Orozco for moderating such a thoughtful and engaging conversation. Events like this reflect the best of our alumni community and the lasting bonds that Crowell fosters, and we look forward to continuing this tradition in the years ahead.



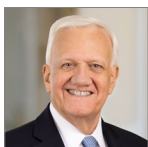
CAREERS@CROWELL

We love introductions to great talent, and we love when alumni return to Crowell. Check out our latest job postings [here](#).

CONGRATULATIONS

Retired Partners and Senior Counsel

Congratulations to the partners and senior counsel who have retired since spring 2026. These lawyers made significant impacts on Crowell and the legal community, and we are proud they chose to practice with us. We look forward to keeping in touch with them and we wish them well in their retirement!



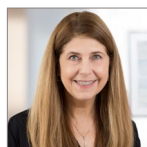
Rob Burton
Washington, D.C.



Harry Johnson
Chicago



Jonathan Linden
Boston



Jeane Thomas
Washington, D.C.

CLE RESOURCES

We are pleased to offer our alumni the CLE resources listed below. For questions about these benefits, contact our [CLE Team](#).

Hotshot Legal (CLE and Learning Content)

Hotshot is a learning platform that offers 300+ short, practical videos and related resources across corporate, litigation, and business topics. They also offer CLE in nearly all MCLE jurisdictions. The firm has a limited number of subscriptions available for firm alumni. If you are interested in a subscription, please email our [CLE Team](#).

Crowell & Moring On Demand CLE Resource

We are pleased to offer CLE resources for our firm alumni, which we update on a rolling basis. Credit is available in a limited number of MCLE jurisdictions including CA, CO, FL, IL, MN, NC, NY, OH, PA, TX and VA; reciprocal credit in CT and NJ. Please refer to [this website](#) as we continue to add new programs.

We regularly host educational, informative, and social events, both in person and virtually. Make sure you are [subscribed](#) to stay in the loop, and check out our website to learn more about upcoming [events](#).



Save the Date: Alumni CLE Series

Earlier this year, we launched a CLE webinar series specifically for our alumni and clients. Please save the date for the next one, **The Evolving Role of Generative AI in Legal Practice**, on **September 22, 2026**. Los Angeles Partner Jennie Wang VonCannon will be our speaker and provide an overview of the ethical considerations and best practices for using generative and other forms of AI in legal and legal-adjacent work. For more information and to register, [click here](#).



STAY CONNECTED

Join our alumni network as we celebrate achievements, reminisce about shared experiences, and forge new connections. If you have ideas about what you would like to see in future editions of this newsletter, please don't hesitate to get in touch at alumni@crowell.com.



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