

Ex-DOD Atty Joins Crowell & Moring's Gov't Contracts Group

By Tracey Read

Law360 (August 29, 2022, 4:05 PM EDT) -- Crowell & Moring LLP has added a former Navy attorney as senior counsel in its government contracts group, the firm announced Monday.

Per Midboe, who has over 10 years of competitive major weapons system acquisition experience at the Naval Sea Systems Command, or NAVSEA, will be based in Washington, D.C.

Midboe started his new role Aug. 22 after leaving his previous job leading the Naval Information Warfare Systems Command Office of Counsel in Washington.

Midboe told Law360 in an interview Monday that he chose to join Crowell & Moring because it's one of the top government contracts firms in the country.

"One of the things that I particularly like about the firm was the depth of bench," he said. "They have an incredibly large government contracts practice with a lot of experts in a lot of different arenas. I had come from an organization that was quite large, with various experts in a variety of government contract fields, and I wanted to replicate that but on the private sector. I'm looking to bring in new clients, particularly companies that are at the cutting edge of technology development."

As a subsection head at NAVSEA, he and his team of 10 attorneys advised five of the Navy's program executive offices on nearly all the Navy's surface and subsurface weapon systems.

Right now, Midboe's clients are focused in the defense industry, which has experienced an uptick as the U.S. Department of Defense looks to counter Russia and China.

"There's been a strong interest in providing the warfighter with a greater capability, and I'm looking to assist my clients as they do exactly that," he said. "Autonomous technologies have been absolutely critical. There's been a lot of discussion of hypersonic in the missile environment. Now we're getting into unmanned autonomous [technology], which has really shifted the battle space for the warfighter and made it safer for us to project power around the world."

The firm said the addition of Midboe will strengthen its bid protest team. While with the Navy, he won over 80% of the bid protests he litigated.



Per Midboe

A graduate of the University of Virginia's mechanical engineering program, Midboe will advise clients on the Navy's largest programs. He is highly skilled in technologies that are necessary for the defense industry's future, including lasers, autonomous vessels, complex combat systems, radars and electronic warfare systems, and missile systems, the firm said.

Midboe obtained his law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law.

"With his recent experience as a senior DOD attorney, Per is uniquely positioned to advise clients regarding complex combat systems, electronic warfare, [unmanned aerial vehicles] and [artificial intelligence] technologies," Stephen McBrady, co-chair of Crowell & Moring's government contracts group, said in a statement. "Per adds deep expertise to our team in the areas of Other Transaction Authority [OTAs], appropriations and fiscal law, which are increasingly important to contractors doing business with the Department of Defense."

Crowell & Moring has offices in the United States, Europe, the Middle East and Asia. It has 55 attorneys in its government contracts practice group.

--Editing by Alex Hubbard.