

## Ex-DOJ Atty Rejoins Crowell & Moring After 7 Months Away

By **Ken Downey Jr.**

Law360 (November 9, 2023, 12:02 AM EST) -- After spending seven months at Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP, Michael Shaheen is returning to Crowell & Moring LLP as a partner in the firm's health care group, where he will focus on False Claims Act cases, the firm announced Thursday.

Shaheen, a former trial attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice, originally joined as a partner in Crowell & Moring's District of Columbia office in July 2020. Shaheen left the firm this past April and jumped to Quinn Emanuel to co-chair its FCA practice. He left Quinn Emanuel in October.



Michael Shaheen

Now back at Crowell & Moring, Shaheen will continue to advise companies on all FCA matters, and specialize in health care and procurement fraud, the firm said.

Prior to his time at Crowell & Moring, Shaheen specialized in FCA prosecutions while at the DOJ from 2014 to 2020. During that period, he led more than 60 investigations involving alleged FCA violations, the Anti-Kickback Statute, the Stark Law, the related party rule and the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act.

His career highlights include being first chair on one of the largest anti-kickback cases in history, U.S. ex rel. *Mayes v. Berkeley Heartlab*, a case involving allegations that blood-testing laboratories were paying kickbacks to physicians and salespeople to induce unnecessary blood testing. Shaheen helped secure a guilty verdict and a \$117 million judgment.

Last fiscal year, FCA-related settlements and judgments broke \$2.2 billion, with more than \$1.7 billion stemming from the health care industry, according to the DOJ. Given the amount of federal spending during the COVID-19 pandemic, many experts expect to see more FCA, fraud and compliance cases in the coming months.

Following the U.S. Supreme Court's June ruling in *Schutte v. SuperValu Inc.*, an uptick in FCA cases is on the horizon, once the DOJ wraps up its COVID-19-related cases.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Inspector General on Monday published new guidance for health care officials, which outline elements of successful compliance programs, including topics such as the FCA and the AKS, among others.

"Crowell's established reputation for excellence handling FCA and other complex civil fraud matters, along with the stellar lawyers in its health care group, are what drew me to return to the firm," Shaheen said in a statement. "I look forward to collaborating with colleagues as we help clients mitigate risk, respond to government investigations, and devise litigation strategy."

Shaheen received his law degree from Cornell University in 2009 and a Bachelor of Science in English Literature from Vanderbilt University in 2000. He began his career in 2009 as an associate at Jones Day.

"We are thrilled to have Michael return to Crowell, where he will greatly enhance our capability to handle false claims matters," said Troy Barsky, co-chair of Crowell & Moring's health care group. "His prosecutorial insights and deep understanding of the complex risk, compliance, and oversight issues that companies across the health care spectrum must navigate will be of great value to clients."

Shaheen's return to Crowell & Moring makes him the 11th lateral partner to join the firm this year. In the past three years, the firm has added 125 lawyers, including 58 lateral partners.

Crowell & Moring was ranked the 90th-largest firm on this year's Law360 400 list, with 578 U.S. attorneys and 231 U.S.-based partners.

--Additional reporting by Tracey Read, Daniel Wilson and Ruben Castaneda. Editing by Lakshna Mehta.