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Marie Jansson Heeks and Justin Hill

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Crowell gains 18-strong patent team from Dentons, London

The new team, led by Justin Hill and Marie Jansson Heeks, is a 'strategic investment' as tech clients 'try to make sense of a rapidly changing environment'.

[Crowell & Moring](#) has today announced the appointment of an 18-strong technology-focused patent team in London, who have all moved from [Dentons](#).

The team will be led by partners and experienced prosecutors [Justin Hill](#), who becomes head of Intellectual Property (UK), and [Marie Jansson Heeks](#).

The entire group moved from Dentons' UK & Middle East branch in London, where Hill served as co-head of Intellectual Property. As well as Hill and Jansson Heeks, the new group includes 12 legal professionals and other professional support staff.

The patent team represents patent holders and opponents in opposition and appeal proceedings before the [European Patent Office](#) and the [Unified Patent Court](#), as well as national courts. They also provide transactional and advisory input for investors and other stakeholders in emerging technologies.

The move is "the latest addition to Crowell's London office focused on areas that intersect with technology and innovation, including AI, data privacy, and IP protection", said the firm.

Justin Hill

Hill is a highly ranked European patent attorney and patent attorney litigator with more than 20 years' experience. His practice focuses on advising on IP policy, strategy, portfolio management, and commercialisation.

As a trusted IP advisor to many of the world's leading tech companies and with experience advising venture funds, Hill uses the latest AI tools to unearth IP and advise on investor readiness and due diligence.

He is also known for IP negotiations, and successes with complex patent disputes including litigation, oppositions, and appeals.

Prior to his leadership role at Dentons, Hill co-led the Patents Group at Olswang (which, along with Nabarro, merged with [CMS](#) in 2017), and served as head of the European IP Prosecution and Opposition Practices at [McDermott Will & Emery](#).

He holds a first-class honours degree and a PhD from Imperial College in London and received a Master of Laws, LLM from Nottingham Law School.

Marie Jansson Heeks



Jansson Heeks is a qualified solicitor and solicitor advocate, as well as a UK and European patent attorney. Her work focuses on strategic patent portfolio management and litigation work and encompasses a broad spectrum of legal matters in a variety of technical disciplines.

She is involved with developing and executing IP portfolio management strategies and with patent and IP due diligence. Jansson Heeks has extensive experience with various patent prosecution matters and has worked on numerous opposition and appeal proceedings.

Commenting on the move, Hill said: "The IP team at Crowell is widely considered one of the most accomplished in the market and we're excited to join such a top-tier team.

"We have been working for years with businesses and innovators of all sizes who are facing difficult decisions about how best to manage their IP assets, and we believe that the platform at Crowell gives us the best ability to serve our clients in a holistic manner.

"We look forward to working with the rest of Crowell's global IP team to support and expand the counsel the firm is providing IP holders globally."

Expansion

The group will join a Crowell IP team of more than 100 lawyers, patent agents, and scientific advisors in California, Chicago, New York, Washington, DC, and Brussels.

Robert Weekes, managing partner of Crowell & Moring's London office and a member of the firm's Management Board, said: "We are delighted to welcome this market-leading team to our new offices here in London.

"This team will link perfectly with our excellent IP practices across the wider firm, and we see real synergies across our London teams. This is a very exciting time to be at Crowell in London as we continue to grow."

Mark Supko, partner and former co-chair of the firm's Intellectual Property Department, added: "Four years ago, Crowell doubled-down on its commitment to becoming a premier technology firm by combining with Brinks, Gilson & Lione, a 65-lawyer Chicago-based IP boutique that added substantial heft to an already strong IP practice.

"The addition of this team in London furthers that commitment by substantially expanding our ability to provide intellectual property and other technology-

focused legal services in Europe across a wide range of technical disciplines, complementing our market-leading IP team in Brussels.”

He added that the team is “a strategic investment that enables us to better serve our technology clients who are trying to make sense of a rapidly changing international business environment”.

“Justin and Marie’s team also offers Crowell additional noncontentious capability, as well as important additional standing before the Unified Patent Court in Europe.”

The news follows Crowell & Moring’s [recent combination](#) with boutique life sciences firm [Faber Daeufer & Itrato](#) to launch [Crowell Life Sciences](#), effective from June 1, 2025.

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