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Crowell Hires More Than 40 Health Care Lawyers From Reed Smith

By Abigail Adcox
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What You Need to Know

- Crowell's health care team addition continues a spate of large partner group moves seen in 2025, as Big Law firms continue to hunt for lateral teams with impact.
- Crowell will open an office in Dallas, which will be led by Scott Williams.
- With the Reed Smith team, Crowell's health care practice will have over a 100 attorneys.

Crowell & Moring has brought on a 16-partner health care litigation group from Reed Smith, part of a team that will expand to more than 40 lawyers making the switch in several markets, including Chicago, Dallas and California.

Crowell confirmed the 40-lawyer lateral move early Wednesday, noting it helps cement the "premier health practice in the country." Former Reed Smith executive committee member Martin Bishop leads the group, which also includes a dozen support staff. The team handles all areas of managed care law.

"We've worked together, we've competed with each other, all the things that you do in a specialized industry," said Bishop. "And it got to



Martin Bishop (center) stands with Troy Barsky (left), fellow co-chair of Crowell & Moring's health care group, and Philip Inglima (right), chair of the firm's management board.

the point where I think we all realized that our clients would be best served if we got together."

The team's clients have included Anthem Blue Cross Life and Health Insurance Company, Health Care Service Corporation, Health Care Service Corporation and Celtic Insurance Company, according to court records this year.

Together, Crowell's combined health care practice will include more than 100 lawyers, the firm said.

The new hires also expand Crowell's footprint in several markets and will establish a new office in Dallas.

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as Big Law firms continue to hunt for lateral teams with impact.

A firm spokesperson for Reed Smith wished their former colleagues well and thanked them for their contributions, but said their exit would allow the firm to remove some conflicts and the firm will continue to invest in the space.

"We believe that these departures will allow us to strengthen our deep roots in the health care industry by removing certain conflicts, responding to a long-standing demand to expand client relationships, partnering with new health care organizations, and attracting even broader talent," the spokesperson said in a statement.

"This sharpened focus also enables us to support key clients in the health care, life sciences, and health care regulatory sectors on their most critical matters," Reed Smith said. "As a firm, we are committed to delivering the highest level of service while aligning our business model to deliver the greatest benefit to our clients, lawyers, and staff. We will continue to invest in top talent and grow our Chambers-ranked health care and life sciences practices."

Health Care Priority

Crowell's health care practice has been a longstanding priority area for the firm, and "anything that is a priority for the firm requires continued attention," firm chair Phil Inglima said in an interview.

"[We] saw such a great opportunity to take a major step forward in the market. I think this really establishes the premier health care practice in the country," said Inglima. "When you consider the reach that we have together, and when you consider how it intersects so many needs of the clients, whether it be litigation, regulatory, transactional, investigations, FCA investigations, or FCA litigation, there are really endless

possibilities for what we can do for clients with this team at the forefront, and that, to us, was an extremely exciting prospect."

So far, client reaction has been "outstanding," Inglima said.

The team joining Crowell's litigation experience extends from issues related to the No Surprises Act, to gender affirming care, to ERISA, to Medicare Advantage and Medicare Managed Care coverage issues, and to post-Dobbs insurance coverage under state health care programs.

Bishop, who will co-chair Crowell's health care group, joins the firm's Chicago office along with partners Steven Hamilton, Rebecca Hanson, Thomas Hardy, Daniel Hofmeister, Alexandra Lucas, Jason Mayer, Kevin Tessier, and Bryan Webster.

Crowell first entered the Chicago market in 2021, merging with Chicago-based IP boutique Brinks Gilson & Lione.

In addition, partners Michelle Cheng, Lorenzo Gasparetti, Junga Kim, Amir Shlesinger, and Kenneth Smersfelt will join in Los Angeles, and Karen Braje will join in San Francisco.

Meanwhile, partner Scott Williams will be based in Dallas, where Crowell is opening an office. Crowell is still scouting an office space in Dallas, according to Inglima.

"We'll be assessing down the road what other growth we may want to do. But this is landing us in a big way here in Chicago, and, very significantly, in Los Angeles as well, but also brings us a Dallas office for the first time," said Inglima.

It comes just two months after Crowell opened a Boston office in June, combining with Faber Daeufer & Itrato, a Boston-founded boutique specializing in corporate and transactional counsel in the drug, life sciences and emerging technology sectors. About 24 lawyers and 20 professional staff from Faber joined Crowell in Boston, New York, San Francisco and London as part of the combination.