



ALUMNI

Crowell Connect

2024 Fall Issue

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Welcome to our second issue of Crowell Connect, our alumni newsletter!

We were thrilled to connect with many of you after our first issue and look forward to staying in touch regularly.

It has been a busy and exciting few months at Crowell. This summer, we marked our firm's 45th anniversary, and we were able to reflect on the qualities that make us an exceptional place to work, as well as the ones that will endure and thrive over the next 45 years of our journey. At the end of September, we gathered in Arizona for our first all-attorney retreat in five years and had a fantastic time connecting with colleagues from around the globe.

In the past several months, we have been able to achieve numerous victories for our clients, ranging from market leaders to small businesses and individuals, and we continue to strive to provide them with excellent service.

We hope you enjoy this issue. Should you have any suggestions for future content or ideas for engaging with our alumni network, please don't hesitate to drop us a line at alumni@crowell.com.



Phil Inglima
Chair, Management Board



Chahira Solh
Chair, Executive Committee

RECENT EVENTS

Chicago Alumni Happy Hour

We recently hosted a Chicago alumni event for both Brinks and Crowell alumni in the area, marking our second gathering since the firms combined in 2021. More than 60 alums and current Crowell lawyers and staff gathered on Porter Kitchen & Deck's riverfront patio to enjoy a beautiful fall evening, reminiscing and hearing about the incredible work that our alumni are doing in our community and profession.

We look forward to more opportunities to connect in the future.



RECENT EVENTS

45th Anniversary Retreat

It was incredible to have Crowell attorneys from around the globe gather in Phoenix, Arizona for the 2024 45th Anniversary Retreat, which was themed “**Connect. Create. Celebrate.**” The retreat was a wonderful opportunity to **connect** with team members, **create** new ideas, and **celebrate** our firm and its 45 years of accomplishments. The agenda included interactive evening events, plenty of networking activities, and inspiring, top-notch speakers, starting with an exciting opening presentation by **Phil Inglima** and **Chahira Solh**, as well as keynote presenters **Carla Harris** and **Chris DeSantis**.

The retreat ended on Friday evening with a cocktail reception, followed by a seated dinner where Public Service Partner **Susie Hoffman** was honored for her success building Crowell’s Pro Bono program. After dinner we held a “Studio 45” party to celebrate the firm’s 45th anniversary, complete with costumes and karaoke. A good time was had by all, and we are already looking forward to the next one!



Fireside Chat with Crowell Alumni

Our Antitrust and Competition group recently hosted a Fireside Chat with Crowell alumni **Portia Bamiduro** and **Alexis DeBernardis** in the Washington, D.C. office. Both former members of the Antitrust and Competition group, Portia is currently the chief of staff to Amazon’s general counsel and Alexis serves as antitrust general counsel at Honeywell. During their remarks, moderated by partner **Juan Arteaga**, Portia and Alexis discussed their career paths and the roles that they play within their companies, the manner in which their companies select outside counsel, best practices for handling matters for their companies, and how their Crowell experience and training has helped them throughout their careers. Portia and Alexis also discussed their companies’ DEI initiatives and provided advice to younger attorneys for developing their personal brands and client relationships.



FIRM HIGHLIGHTS

Recent News

Crowell Secures Zero-Payment Dismissal for BMW Group Against Infogation

In September, our client BMW Group achieved a zero-payment dismissal with prejudice in two cases brought by Infogation Corporation against Bayerische Motoren Werke AG and BMW of North America in federal court in the Eastern District of Texas.

This litigation began in August 2023, when Infogation sued a number of automobile manufacturers for allegedly violating its vehicle navigation technology patents. This campaign followed an earlier wave of Infogation lawsuits in 2021 against Google LLC and certain telecommunications companies.

In its motion to dismiss the first complaint, the Crowell team raised novel arguments that Infogation's service of process was ineffective because BMW AG must be served pursuant to the Hague Service Convention. Thereafter, Infogation entered into a joint stipulation that its prior service attempts on BMW AG were ineffective and that BMW AG can only properly be served pursuant to the Hague Service Convention.

Shortly after, Infogation filed its next complaint against BMW North America in May 2024, even though the court had held that the Eastern District of Texas was not the appropriate venue. After discussions with BMW's counsel, Infogation dismissed both of its cases with prejudice and with no payment from BMW Group.

The Crowell team was led by patent litigation partner and lead counsel **Brian Paul Gearing**, and counsel **Ali H.K. Tehrani**.

Crowell Advises itselectric in \$6.5 Million Seed Funding Round

Crowell represented itselectric, a Brooklyn-based electric vehicle curbside charging company, in closing a \$6.5 million seed funding round. The round was led by Failup Ventures and Uber Technologies, with additional participation from Halogen Ventures, The Partnership Fund for NYC, Pulse Fund, Newlab, Gratitude Railroad, Tale VP, Equity Alliance Fund, LACI Impact Fund, and The Helm. This new funding will support itselectric's expansion to seven U.S. cities in 2024, including Boston, Los Angeles, Detroit, Jersey City, and San Francisco, and will help meet the growing demand for convenient and affordable curbside EV charging solutions.

With the rapid growth of EV sales in the U.S. and the increasing need for charging infrastructure, itselectric's innovative Level-2 charging posts offer a scalable solution. These chargers connect behind-the-meter to draw spare electrical supply from adjacent buildings, eliminating the need for utility permitting and coordination. This approach allows for zero-cost installation to property owners and cities, while also providing a revenue-sharing model that benefits property owners. Additionally, itselectric's UL-certified detachable cable EV chargers emphasize safety, customer experience, and product quality.

New York-based corporate partner **Matthew Moisan** led the deal with assistance from counsel **Justin Lurie** and associate **Justin Porter**.

Crowell Prevails for National Mining Association in D.C. Circuit, Defeating NGO Challenge to Interior Department's "Mill Site" Rule

In June, Crowell secured a victory on behalf of the National Mining Association (NMA) in a longstanding dispute over a regulation governing mining on federal land.

In 2003, the Interior Department enacted a regulation that governs the use of "mill sites" to facilitate hardrock mining on federal land. The regulation was then challenged in 2009 by Earthworks and other aligned organizations. Along with a coalition of industry intervenors including Barrick Gold, NMA intervened in the district court on the side of the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to defend the regulation. In 2020, the district court granted summary judgment to the government and industry intervenors.

While the appeal was pending, Earthworks petitioned BLM to rescind the rule, and as a result, the case was suspended. After a year with no movement on the administrative petition, intervenors successfully persuaded the D.C. Circuit to allow merits briefing to proceed. On the merits, while the government invoked Chevron deference, NMA and the other intervenors successfully urged the court of appeals to uphold the mill site regulation under a plain-language interpretation of the Mining Law of 1872.

The Crowell team includes partners **Elizabeth B. Dawson**, **Daniel W. Wolff**, **Thomas A. Lorenzen**, and retired partner **R. Timothy McCrum**.

FIRM HIGHLIGHTS

Summer Program and First-Year Associates

We were delighted to host 30 summer associates across seven of our offices. These exceptional students spent 10 weeks working alongside firm lawyers to assist with client deliverables, learning how to provide high-level client service and creating meaningful connections with the Crowell community. When they weren't working, the summer associates enjoyed social activities including celebrating the firm's 45th birthday, checking out museums, attending local sporting events, showing off their creative and puzzle-solving skills, taking in a show, and serving the local community.

The summer associates hailed from leading law schools around the country, including American University College of Law; George Mason University Law School; George Washington University Law School; Georgetown University Law Center; Howard University School of Law; LMU Loyola Law School; UCLA School of Law, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law; University of California, Berkeley, School of Law; University of California Irvine School of Law; University of Denver College of Law; University of Illinois College of Law; University of Michigan Law School;

University of Southern California School of Law; University of Virginia School of Law; University of Wisconsin Law School; Santa Clara University School of Law; Temple University School of Law; and Washington University in St. Louis School of Law.

Our summer program is extremely important to us, serving as the backbone of our annual effort to recruit the best and brightest future attorneys from around the country. We are already looking forward to next summer!

In September, we were thrilled to extend a warm welcome to our 2024 First-Year Associates joining our U.S. offices. This class, representing 13 law schools, enriches our team with diverse backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives. Everyone in the class was a summer associate in 2023, and we are excited they have chosen to practice at Crowell. The First Years are currently participating in a 6-month integration program, which will include an in-person retreat in December. We look forward to integrating them into the Crowell & Moring community.



FIRM HIGHLIGHTS

Crowell Gives Back: 45th Anniversary Service Days

This year, in celebration of the firm's 45th anniversary, we participated in multiple service projects in our local communities. These volunteer opportunities were an excellent way to take some time outside of the office and connect with our Crowell colleagues while giving back to phenomenal organizations. Highlights included:

- The Brussels office spent time with Serve the City, a worldwide initiative where volunteers offer practical assistance and kindness to those in need. What started as a single Day of Service more than a year ago has now grown into a regular monthly commitment.
- The Chicago team filled 450 snack bags for Ronald McDonald House to help support families with sick children in their time of need.
- Our Denver office helped stuff backpacks with all the back-to-school essentials for local communities.
- During the month of Ramadan, the Doha office participated in the Wa'hab Iftar Charity Box initiative for the second year in a row, donating 700 iftar meals to those most in need.
- Our London office helped restore a grassland habitat in Gunnersbury Park, a community interest and not-for-profit parkland.

- A group of Los Angeles volunteers teamed up with Hope through Housing Foundation to fill 100 backpacks with school supplies to help local children.
- Our New York office hosted a delightful group of senior citizens from the Amsterdam Continuing Care Health System Adult Day Health Care Program. The group enjoyed an afternoon of laughter, creativity, and camaraderie and crafted beautiful floral arrangements while enjoying breathtaking views of the city.
- The Orange County team volunteered at Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County, helping out at a farm that produces nutritious food for those in need.
- Our San Francisco group volunteered at the SF-Marin Food Bank.
- Our largest office, Washington, DC, contributed almost 350 collective hours of service to Capital Area Food Bank, DC Central Kitchen, National Park Service, Lucky Dog animal rescue, WJA Academy middle school, Greater DC Diaper Bank, Christ House, and Plummer Elementary School.

These efforts exemplified the power and soul of Crowell. We are thankful to the team leads for their exceptional coordination and leadership of this campaign, and to all the Crowell employees who participated and helped make it a success.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Shannon Barnard

Shannon Barnard was an associate in our Los Angeles office from 2015-2018. After Crowell she has had a fascinating career path, and has worked for companies including Warner Bros. Entertainment, JLL, and Panasonic Avionics Corporation. Shannon recently joined SpaceX where she is Legal Counsel. Shannon received her BA from UC Santa Barbara and her JD from Stanford Law School. Learn more about Shannon below!



Tell us about your time at Crowell, and what you have been up to since.

From 2015-2018, I was a commercial litigation associate at Crowell, with a focus on healthcare litigation. I worked closely with Jen Romano, Nat Wood, Chris Flynn, and Pete Roan on litigation matters nationwide, including a case in Louisiana, where I tried deep fried crab for the first time. Yum!

After starting my career as a litigator, I did what almost everyone told me was “impossible:” I made the switch from litigation to transactions practice. After an initial learning curve and extensive networking, I landed a role as in-house technology transactions counsel at Warner Bros. Entertainment. Since WB, I’ve expanded my in-house skills to commercial transactions, including negotiating both buy-side and sell-side deals, advising product and engineering teams on legal and regulatory issues throughout the entire product life-cycle (from idea/development through end of life), and conducting legal review of marketing and advertising materials.

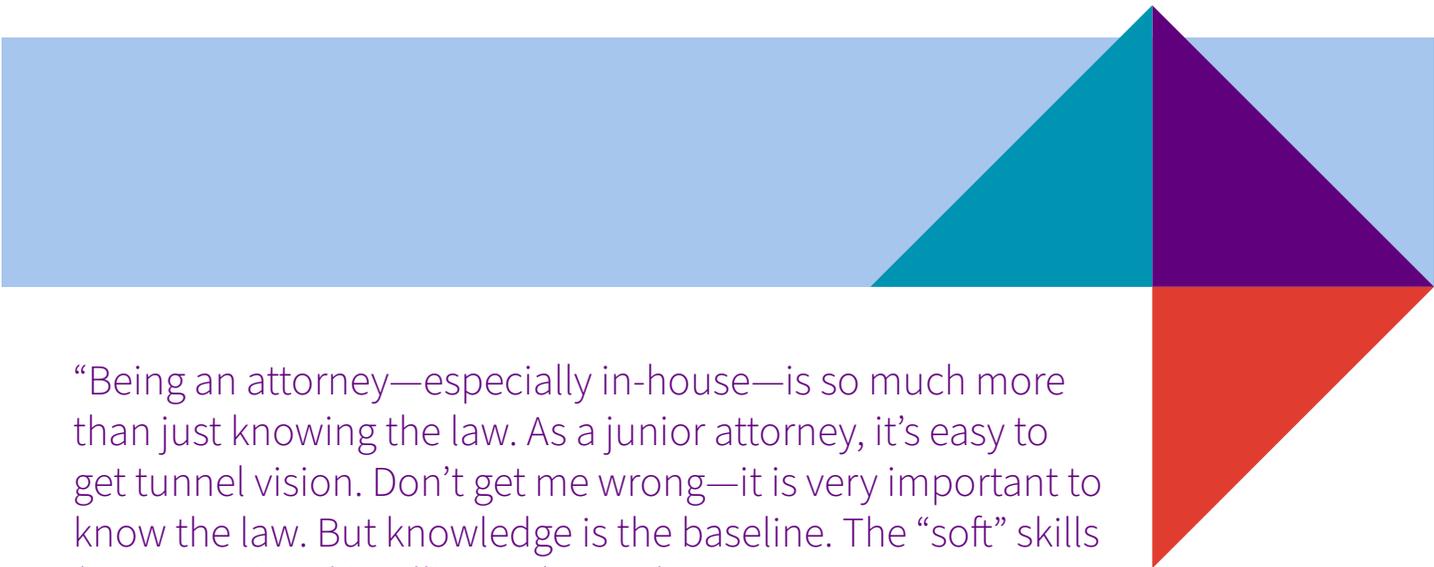
Do you have a favorite Crowell memory you would like to share?

I’d have to say my favorite Crowell memory is when the Los Angeles associates would grab coffee and/or lunch together nearly every day. There was a good-sized group of us who would walk to lunch together in downtown Los Angeles, where we had a rotation of our favorite restaurants (Oleego anyone?) but would occasionally try something new to keep things interesting. These lunches and coffees were a fun way to take a mid-day break and relax with colleagues. There was something very special about the bond the Los Angeles associates had.

From your point of view in-house, how might outside counsel provide the best client service?

I appreciate when outside counsel truly understands the business’s goals and the importance of risk management (rather than risk elimination) in providing legal advice. It’s refreshing when outside counsel says, “while the law says X...given the practical realities of operating in the industry, I recommend Y.” There’s nothing more frustrating than receiving advice that is impractical or unnecessarily stifles the business. I also love when outside counsel provides concise legal advice in an email that I can forward on to the business without having to make changes. Bullet point advice is fantastic for this, since many busy executives don’t have time to read through paragraphs (or pages) of legal memos. Also, please be open, honest, and upfront—especially when things go wrong. The earlier you let in-house counsel know of a problem, the easier it will be to fix (usually).

“I appreciate when outside counsel truly understands the business’s goals and the importance of risk management (rather than risk elimination) in providing legal advice.”



“Being an attorney—especially in-house—is so much more than just knowing the law. As a junior attorney, it’s easy to get tunnel vision. Don’t get me wrong—it is very important to know the law. But knowledge is the baseline. The “soft” skills (e.g., emotional intelligence) are what can set you apart.”

What are the most significant challenges you face in your current role, and how do you approach problem solving?

I just started a new job, so the biggest challenge currently is getting to know the various business stakeholders and how the company operates. The in-house environment is very different from that of a law firm. In a law firm office, you know there will probably be partners, associates, paralegals, and support staff. The in-house environment can vary wildly depending on the type and size of the company. To navigate this new environment, I usually set time aside in the first couple weeks to study company organization charts and meet individually with key business stakeholders.

My approach to problem solving is to develop a diverse lens through which to examine the problem. Over the last several years, I’ve invested a significant amount of time into professional development opportunities to expand my expertise and perspective. For example, I’ve completed courses in how to effectively persuade and influence executive management, how to lead digital transformation for large corporations, how to embrace agile development, how to use empathy and emotional intelligence in the workplace, and how to practice pragmatic product management and marketing. This broad education has empowered me with the understanding and appreciation of what it means to be an effective in-house attorney.

What advice would you give to current law students or early-career attorneys looking to make a meaningful impact in their field?

Being an attorney—especially in-house—is so much more than just knowing the law. As a junior attorney, it’s easy to get tunnel vision. Don’t get me wrong, it is very important to know the law. But knowledge is the baseline. The “soft” skills (e.g., emotional intelligence) are what can set you apart. I encourage you to reach out to me for advice about creative ways to develop these skills. I’m happy to help!



CROWELL ALUMNI ON THE MOVE!

Have you recently changed jobs, started a business or been promoted? Let us know what you are up to, so that we can share with this community! Click [here](#) to keep us in the loop.

RETURNING LAWYER SPOTLIGHT

Agustin Orozco

We are proud that our alumni often return to Crowell, seeking to rejoin our unique culture. Agustin was an associate in our Government Contracts group for several years, and left in 2016 to gain valuable government and trial experience as an Assistant U.S. Attorney. We were thrilled to welcome him back to the firm's Los Angeles office in 2022 as a partner in the White Collar and Regulatory Enforcement and Government Contracts groups.



Why did you decide to return to Crowell?

I had a strong desire to reconnect with the mentors who played a pivotal role in my professional growth. Their guidance and expertise have always been invaluable to me. Additionally, Crowell provided me with a strong platform to build a practice in both the Government Contracts and White Collar & Regulatory Enforcement groups. Both groups are nationally recognized and have an amazing group of attorneys that are focused on providing excellent client service. Crowell's culture was another key factor in my decision. Crowell's culture fosters collaboration, support, and a sense of belonging, all attributes I deeply value.

How has your experience as a federal prosecutor helped you in your current practice?

My time at the Criminal Division for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of California (USAO) provided me with invaluable experience both inside and outside the courtroom. I worked on hundreds of criminal cases, served as lead counsel in federal trials, examined dozens of witnesses on direct and cross-examination, delivered opening and closing arguments, and briefed and argued multiple cases before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. I spent the majority of my time at the USAO in the Public Corruption & Civil Rights Section, where I investigated, charged, and litigated complex white-collar matters involving both domestic and international corruption issues. Managing these high-profile cases required me to be diligent, organized, and decisive—a skill set that I apply to all my matters. Thanks to these experiences, my clients know they are hiring an experienced courtroom litigator that understands how to effectively engage with the Department of Justice to obtain positive results.

You recently became the firm's partner champion for the Mansfield certification process. What do you hope to accomplish in that role?

Crowell is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion. A fundamental aspect of this is making sure that women and diverse lawyers have real and meaningful opportunities for leadership and career progression. Crowell achieved Mansfield Certification Plus status for 2023 for the second consecutive year, along with Mansfield Certification for the fifth consecutive year. As the firm's partner champion, I hope to continue to push the firm's efforts forward so that we can continue to increase transparency and accessibility in our advancement processes.

What three words would you use to best describe Crowell?

Collaborative, Experienced, Inclusive

How do you spend your time outside of work?

I'm the proud father of two young boys (ages four and five). Needless to say, they keep me very busy. They love playing sports and playing with Legos. When I'm not working, you can find me playing soccer or baseball with my boys or indoors building a Lego set. There is never a dull moment.

CONGRATULATIONS

Retired Partners and Senior Counsel

Congratulations to the partners and senior counsel who have retired since June 2024. Each of 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!



Elliott P. Laws
Washington, D.C.



Laurel Malson
Washington, D.C.



Richard McNeil
Orange County &
San Francisco



James J. Regan
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 recently rolled out a CLE resource for our firm alumni and clients, which we are adding to on a rolling basis. Credit is available in a limited number of MCLE jurisdictions including CA, CO, FL, IL, NY, PA, and VA, and reciprocal credit in CT and NJ. Please visit [this website](#) and refer back 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](#).

JOIN US!



CAREERS@CROWELL

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