

Crowell & Moring Nabs Litigators From Sedgwick In DC

By Adam Lidgett

Law360, New York (June 6, 2017, 1:41 PM EDT) -- Crowell & Moring LLP announced that it has lured two seasoned litigators from Sedgwick LLP to its mass tort, product and consumer litigation group, saying that they will both join as partners in the firm's Washington, D.C., office.

Richard E. Wallace Jr. and Peter C. Condrón have joined Crowell & Moring, bringing with them years of experience in commercial, toxic tort, product liability and environmental issues, the firm announced on Thursday. Wallace told Law360 on Tuesday that although the people at Crowell & Moring made the firm attractive, it was really the strong bench that brought on the move.

"Our practice focuses on complex litigation in the energy sector, and Crowell has, from my perspective, the strongest resources and deepest bench in that area in Washington," Wallace said.

At Sedgwick, Wallace focused on the same thing he will at Crowell & Moring — complex litigation, principally in the energy sector across the nation, he said. For 15 years prior to that, Wallace said, he was at Wallace King Domike & Reiskin LLP, a boutique firm where he was the founding and managing partner.

"It was an itch I needed to scratch," he said on the founding of the firm. "I wanted to focus on the business aspect of the profession."

Before the boutique, Wallace said he was a partner at Howrey LLP, where he worked for about six years, and was first made partner at what was then Kaye Scholer LLP, where he worked for about 10 years. Wallace is a 1982 graduate of Harvard Law School, and a 1978 graduate of the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where he majored in legal studies, he said.

Wallace said at Crowell & Moring he will handle mostly product liability cases against oil industry clients and will focus on the complex litigation subsets of class actions and multidistrict litigation.

Condrón, who spent almost the last six years at Sedgwick, said about the move to the new firm that he and Wallace have known some of the people at Crowell & Moring for quite a while, and have the upmost respect for them.



Rick Wallace



Peter Condrón

“In our space, in the area we practice, we think it’s one of the most highly regarded firms in the country,” Condrón told Law360.

Prior to Sedgwick, Condrón also said he worked at Wallace King, where he became a partner in 2004, and at Howrey, where he worked for about three years. He also said he worked at Kaye Scholer.

He is a 1987 graduate of the College of William & Mary Marshall-Wythe School of Law, and a 1984 graduate of St. John’s University, where he studied economics.

Condrón said he hopes to be doing mostly the same work for his clients at the new firm, including mass tort, product liability and environmental work. One area of the law both attorneys focus on is litigation over methyl tert-butyl ether, or MTBE, a type of gasoline additive.

They have both defended MTBE product liability cases across the country, and Condrón said they will be focusing on MTBE work at the new firm.

“Rick and Pete are highly regarded in the industry and are significant additions to the firm,” Angela Styles, chair of Crowell & Moring, said in a statement. “They have successfully represented some of the largest corporations in the world, including major oil companies and other corporate clients, and their arrival further bolsters the firm’s environmental litigation capabilities nationwide.”

--Editing by Stephen Berg.