

Former DHS Deputy Chief Of Staff Rejoins Crowell & Moring

By Xiumei Dong

Law360 (June 17, 2025, 12:30 AM EDT) -- A former senior official at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has rejoined Crowell & Moring LLP as a partner in its government contracts group, the firm announced Tuesday.

Sharmistha Das most recently served as deputy chief of staff at DHS and previously held the role of deputy general counsel. After nearly a decade in public service, she returned on May 29 to the firm where she was once an associate, citing its culture and the chance to work alongside experts across diverse sectors as key reasons for her comeback.



Sharmistha Das

"Crowell was an incredible place to start my legal career surrounded by experts across sectors and practices," Das told Law360 Pulse in an email. "As I considered where I could best contribute my experience in the executive and legislative branches, I was thrilled at the prospect of rejoining this collaborative, strategic, and nimble team, particularly during such a dynamic moment."

Das has joined the regulatory and policy department and will take a leading role in the national security practice, where she will advise clients on cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, healthcare, federal grants, congressional investigations and administrative law matters, Crowell & Moring said.

Das told Law360 Pulse that she's especially eager to tackle complex matters at the intersection of law and policy, helping clients assess how government actions may affect them, evaluate the risks and respond with practical, timely solutions.

"My head is on a swivel. I see opportunities to get ahead of risks on the horizon through the lenses of each of my prior government roles," Das said. "There is immense opportunity, particularly during moments of regulatory and policy change, to mitigate the risks an organization could face in the courtroom, on the Hill, or in the press."

Das was at DHS from January 2021 through January 2025, and she advanced from deputy general counsel to acting and then permanent deputy chief of staff. During this time, she also served on detail as associate counsel in former Vice President Kamala Harris' office from April 2022 to March 2023.

Prior to her DHS tenure, Das worked in the U.S. Senate as counsel and senior counsel to then-Sen. Harris from 2019 to early 2021. Earlier in her career, Das was an associate at Crowell & Moring from 2014 to 2019, focusing on administrative law in the firm's government contracts group.

Adelicia Cliffe, co-chair of Crowell & Moring's government contracts group, said in a statement that the firm is thrilled to have Das back, especially as companies face unprecedented challenges that affect their business.

"Her combination of having worked in private practice, on Capitol Hill, and in the executive branch makes her an invaluable asset on a range of regulatory advocacy and litigation issues facing our clients," Cliffe added.

Das earned her law degree from Georgetown University Law Center and her undergraduate degree from Yale University. Her return to Crowell & Moring follows recent growth in the firm's Washington, D.C., office, including the addition of Alexander Kramer, a former assistant chief in the U.S. Department of Justice's Foreign Corrupt Practices Act unit.

In early June, the firm further expanded by combining with Faber Daeufer & Itrato PC, launching a Boston office to strengthen its presence in the life sciences sector.

--Editing by Alanna Weissman.