

## Ex-GAO Atty Rejoins Crowell & Moring After Stint At AI Co.

By Micah Danney

*Law360 (October 12, 2023, 12:02 AM EDT)* -- Two years after departing Crowell & Moring LLP's government contracts practice for an artificial intelligence defense business, an attorney has returned to the firm as a partner, according to an announcement Wednesday.

Eric M. Ransom was previously senior counsel in Crowell & Moring's government contracts group after spending 11 years at the U.S. Government Accountability Office as deputy assistant general counsel and as a senior bid protest hearing officer in the Procurement Law Division. He left the law firm in May 2021 for a role as director and associate general counsel of Scale AI Inc., a training and validation data provider for artificial intelligence applications.



Eric M. Ransom

Ransom told Law360 on Wednesday that he is excited to use his experience in the emerging and transformative business of AI to help Crowell & Moring clients navigate the government contracting process along with "the deepest bench in the business."

"I'm really interested in the intersection of government contracts and Silicon Valley technology companies, artificial technology companies among them," Ransom said.

Ransom will advise clients on AI and sophisticated defense technologies as well as procurement laws, regulations and best practices, the firm said.

"We are thrilled to welcome Eric back to Crowell," Daniel R. Forman, co-chair of the firm's government contracts group, said in a statement. "His experience on the front lines of AI, a developing area of the law, positions him uniquely to help clients navigate uncharted waters for companies that sell AI products and services to the government, and those that utilize AI in contract performance."

Ransom's additional experience working with emerging companies and venture capital entities means he will work closely with Crowell & Moring's emerging companies and venture capital practice to advise new companies, venture funds and corporate investors.

"Crowell has always felt like the perfect fit to me, and I am delighted to rejoin the firm's unmatched bench of collegial government contracts practitioners," Ransom said in a statement. "I look forward to drawing on my government and in-house experience to help clients navigate bid protests and the defense technology environment, and structure their businesses for long-term success in the public sector."

Ransom earned his undergraduate degree at George Washington University and his law degree at the University of Maryland's Francis King Carey School of Law.

In his time at the GAO, he resolved more than 750 bid protests and was responsible for more than 125 published decisions.

Ransom also served on the U.S. Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, advising Senate offices on federal procurement law, working to improve the Senate's internal procurement systems and leading the committee's oversight of legislative branch contracting issues, including the management of data privacy concerns in Senate software contracts as well as the termination and re-competition of the Government Publishing Office's \$61 million contract that supported the 2020 U.S. Census.

Ransom was named one of Law360's Top Attorneys Under 40 in 2021 and a Law360 Rising Star for Government Contracts the same year, having played an integral role in bid protest litigation over cutting-edge contracts, including a \$72 billion B-21 stealth bomber program and a NASA deal with SpaceX.

--Editing by Jill Coffey.