

Aviation Expert Returns To Crowell & Moring In DC

By James Boyle

Law360 (January 31, 2024, 12:32 AM EST) -- An aviation attorney and former Department of Transportation regulator has moved her practice back to Crowell & Moring's Washington, D.C., office after leaving the firm eight years ago, as she continues her focus on assisting clients with issues including compliance, investigations and commercial transactions.

Amna Arshad has been welcomed back to Crowell & Moring as a partner in the aviation and transportation practices at the Washington, D.C., office, the firm announced Wednesday. Arshad told Law360 Pulse that she had always wanted to return to the firm, and being back with Crowell & Moring has felt like a homecoming.



Amna Arshad

"I left a few years back to grow my practice," Arshad said. "The firm has a deep history in aviation, and the breadth and depth of its U.S. regulatory services is what I need to take my practice to the next level."

Arshad also credited Crowell & Moring's collaborative and supportive culture, an environment that has helped her become the fifth attorney to return to the firm as a partner in the Washington, D.C., office in the last 12 months.

Last week, Richard Holbrook rejoined the firm's corporate group after a stint as Paradigm's general counsel and chief legal officer based in Singapore. Michael Shaheen left the firm for seven months to practice at Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP before returning in November. In October, Eric Ransom returned after two years as associate general counsel for Scale AI Inc. Jason Crawford left the Department of Justice in January 2023 to come back to the firm's Washington office.

Arshad's practice combines her private and public sector experiences to advise clients on domestic and international regulatory issues, including compliance counseling, disputes and investigations defense, and commercial transactions. Her work includes helping clients navigate issues before agencies including the Department of Transportation and the Federal Aviation Administration.

"Aviation is one of our most heavily regulated industries, with a dynamic regulatory structure that is constantly changing," Arshad said. "My clients benefit from my ability to see around the corners and prepare them for the changing landscape."

After receiving her law degree from American University's Washington College of Law, Arshad started

her legal career as a clerk to Judge Dennis J. Smith in the 19th Judicial District of Virginia. In 2008, Arshad joined Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP as an associate.

Starting in 2010, Arshad spent six years as a senior trial attorney with the office of general counsel in the Department of Transportation. Arshad returned to the private sector as an associate with Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP and went on to continue developing her aviation practice at firms including Crowell & Moring and Jenner & Block.

"I grew up on planes as I was raised in three different countries," Arshad said. "I love aviation and the way it brings the world together. I'm proud to partner with my clients and work on the interesting issues they face. It is all really exciting."

In 2019, Arshad joined Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer as special counsel and head of its U.S. aviation regulatory practice. Arshad added to her responsibilities in 2022 when she became a member of the advisory board for the Hague Court of Arbitration for aviation.

"Amna brings aviation clients deep regulatory experience and industry insight that come from operating at the forefront of the most high-profile issues impacting the sector," said Rebecca Chaney, co-chair of Crowell & Moring's transportation practice, in a statement Wednesday. "Amna has addressed the most vexing aviation matters through both the government and the private lens, so she brings the broadest perspective to client engagements. She will help clients expand their global portfolio and lead in the transportation revolution of our times."

--Editing by Emily Kokoll.