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Crowell & Moring Hires CIO From Mayer Brown

By **Andrea Keckley**

Law360 (April 5, 2023, 2:32 PM EDT) -- Crowell & Moring LLP announced Tuesday it has hired the former chief technology officer at Mayer Brown LLP to become its next chief information officer.

Joel Gustafson will be based in Chicago, where he will lead Crowell & Moring's information services team.

Gustafson told Law360 Pulse on Wednesday that the opportunity to integrate information technology into future technologies and legal services, the firm's commitment to diversity and inclusion and the transparency of its leadership attracted him to Crowell & Moring.

After taking the time to learn more about the firm's operations, Gustafson said he anticipates looking into what, from an IT perspective, needs to be addressed at Crowell & Moring and how to complement that to the firm's business strategy. He said he will look at opportunities to improve the firm's efficiency and capacity for collaboration.

"I still need to do some assessment and understanding [and] also suss out what the strategy is for the business, so I can marry the technology to the business strategy so that they are complementary," he said.

At Mayer Brown, Gustafson managed global IT strategic planning, cloud adoption, IT operations and security enhancement, according to Crowell & Moring. Gustafson's previous employers include Sidley Austin LLP and business consulting services company Heidrick & Struggles.

"Joel brings a wealth of experience, particularly in the legal arena, and will lead efforts to devise innovative technological solutions to solve business issues, maintain a secure platform, and leverage new and emerging technologies to keep pace in an everchanging business environment," Chahira Solh, chair of Crowell & Moring's executive committee, said in a statement.

Gustafson said that, given factors like the impact of COVID-19 on legal organizations, there has been an increased focus in recent years on helping teams work together in a remote capacity.

"I think there's a heavy focus on remote support," he said. "Security [is] highly critical and highly necessary to both protect the firm and their clients. And then again, those efficiencies for the practice groups or the business services."

The firm's Chicago office opened in 2021 upon combining with intellectual property boutique Brinks Gilson & Lione.

--Additional reporting by Aebra Coe. Editing by Lakshna Mehta.

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