

Breaking: Crowell & Moring hires former Knobbe Martens partner

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Jon Gurka

IP litigator Jon Gurka, who has joined Crowell & Moring after a long career at Knobbe Martens, says clients need advice that goes beyond pure IP

Crowell & Moring's newest intellectual property partner was drawn to the firm in part because it is full service, he told Managing IP.

Litigator Jon Gurka has joined Crowell & Moring in Orange County, California, Managing IP can reveal today, December 14.

Gurka had worked at IP and technology firm Knobbe Martens since 1996 but left the firm in October this year. He said he had left because he was looking for something new but wasn't sure where he would work upon leaving.

"I looked at several firms, but Crowell stood out," he said, noting that working at a full-service firm could provide more opportunities.

"Having been at an IP boutique for as long as I had, there are opportunities missed in not being able to provide certain practice areas. Hopefully, that gap will be filled," he said.

He noted that there are a lot of issues that clients face that go beyond IP, such as labour and employment, corporate M&A and government contracts.

"When you can only service their IP needs, they tend to look elsewhere, and I'm hoping that changes with Crowell, given their vast practice areas."

Another reason Gurka was drawn to Crowell & Moring was because of his existing connections.

The firm combined with Chicago-based Brinks Gilson & Lione in 2021, a firm that Gurka worked at after his first year of law school in 1994.

"For me, life has come full circle," Gurka said. "The fact that Brinks Gilson & Lione was so well regarded in the IP space, made this move pretty easy."

Gurka added that Crowell & Moring place a lot of emphasis on collaboration, which appealed to him.

During the onboarding process, a lot of colleagues reached out and tried to connect with him to support his practice.

"Everything has been great so far, and I have a great feeling that people want to collaborate and help."

He added that he's looking forward to expanding his client base and serving the firm's existing clients.

"Hopefully having a larger platform with more practice areas will help growth in all those areas," he said.

Gurka is far from the only partner to join Crowell & Moring recently. The firm has added more than 60 partners to its IP, litigation, regulatory, and transactional departments over the past three years.