

Government Contracts Group Of The Year: Crowell & Moring

By **Britain Eakin**

Law360 (February 12, 2026, 4:03 PM EST) -- Crowell & Moring LLP's government contracts team steered clients through a rare government equity investment in a defense-critical supply chain deal, as well as two bid protests that ended with the contracts going to the protester, earning the firm a spot among the 2025 Law360 Government Contracts Groups of the Year.

For a deal that closed July 9, 2025, the group helped rare earths producer MP Materials set up a multibillion-dollar public-private partnership with the U.S. Department of Defense to accelerate rare-earth magnets production and reduce reliance on foreign supply, shoring up a domestic supply chain for minerals that are critical to advanced technology systems.

The transaction made the DOD the company's largest shareholder in what the team dubbed "an unprecedented" public-private partnership, and an early example of the Trump administration using government capital and equity-style tools to close a multipronged national security agreement.

That's a configuration the practice group's co-chair Peter Eyre said hasn't been used before.

"It's one of the benefits of having a very broad team that we can think creatively, look at some of these really new-type issues, and work successfully with clients and others to partner with the government to get these transactions to completion," Eyre said.

While the team was helping clients navigate the government-backed industry policy deal, it was also delivering bid protest results for Nightwing Intelligence Solutions LLC and Nationwide Healthcare Solutions LLC that preserved and secured, respectively, the actual contracts for the group's clients.

"In the protest world, a win can often be pure in the sense that you won the protest, but the client doesn't necessarily get the contract. So having a protest strategy not only win, but you win in a way in which your clients get to continue performing or get awarded a contract, or anything where the business continues, I think is quite notable," practice group co-chair Daniel R. Forman said.

The practice group helped Nightwing challenge the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's award of a \$2.4 billion cybersecurity contract to competitor Leidos. DHS denied the protest after more than a year, prompting Nightwing to take the case to the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, where Crowell & Moring helped it to argue the bid evaluation was flawed and allege an unfair competitive advantage.



Nightwing argued that Leidos got proposal-drafting assistance from a former Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency employee who had access to nonpublic, competitively useful information about Nightwing's performance as the incumbent contractor.

Once the protest moved to the claims court, Forman said, Crowell & Moring attorneys were able to walk U.S. Department of Justice attorneys through that conflict of interest concern.

"They were quick to understand what the issues were and recognize that they had significant risk, and then came up with a solution whereby the procurement was canceled and our client's existing contract was allowed to continue," Forman said.

The practice group also guided Nationwide Healthcare Solutions through a bid protest over the Defense Health Agency's elimination of the company from a competitive range in the small business track of the DHA's 10-year, \$40 billion-plus award for a Medical Q-Coded Support and Services-Next Generation contract to staff military hospitals and clinics with healthcare providers.

Two days after Nationwide lodged the protest with the Government Accountability Office, the DHA took corrective action. Nationwide Healthcare Solutions was identified in May 2025 as one of the intended awardees for the contract.

In other notable matters, the group advised RTX on its \$1.8 billion divestiture from Collins Aerospace's actuation and flight control business to Safran, which closed in July. The practice group also advised Motorola on regulatory diligence in its \$4.4 billion acquisition of Silvus Technologies Inc. to expand its footprint in secure communications technology for defense and intelligence customers, including those supporting drones and other unmanned systems.

Adelicia Cliffe, another of the practice group's co-chairs, said those cases show the practice group's "holistic approach."

Cliffe said the government contracts group — a core practice of the firm staffed with more than 70 full-time attorneys in Washington, D.C., Chicago and New York — works closely with specialists in other practice groups, including privacy and cybersecurity, labor and employment, corporate and white collar.

"On those large transactions — really on many of the large matters — we're bringing in and working with a cross-practice team that all are familiar with and know how to solve problems specific to clients that are in the government contract space," Cliffe said. "I think that's pretty unique to us, in terms of the depth, not just within our own group, but also in these ancillary practices."

--Editing by Amy French.
