



ALUMNI

Crowell Connect

Winter 2026

In This Issue

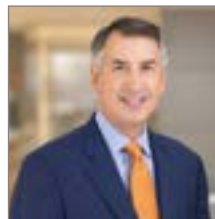
- 02 | Firm Highlights
- 05 | Alumni Spotlight: Jini Koh
- 07 | New Faces
- 09 | Alumni Spotlight: Michele St. Mary
- 11 | Congratulations Retirees

Welcome to Our Winter Issue!

In this issue, we are proud to share exciting firm highlights—including new partner and counsel promotions, our Chicago office’s recent move, and more.

This edition also features Q&As with Jini Koh and Michele St. Mary, whose career stories underscore the versatility, tenacity, and collaborative spirit that define our network.

We hope these updates help keep you connected to the firm and to each other. As always, please feel free to send us your news or suggestions for future features at alumni@crowell.com. Thank you for being part of our extended Crowell community.



Phil Inglima
Chair, Management Board



Chahira Solh
Chair, Executive Committee

FIRM HIGHLIGHTS

Newest Partners, Senior Counsel, and Counsel

Effective January 1, 2026, we elected 14 new partners, promoted 26 associates to counsel, and promoted one counsel to senior counsel. Each of these exceptional individuals has demonstrated professional excellence and sustained commitment to our clients and our firm.

Partners



Charles Baek
Washington, D.C.
Government Contracts



Robert Deegan
Chicago
Health Care



Eric Homs
New York
Tax



Molly Jones
San Francisco
Litigation and
Intellectual Property



Justin Lurie
New York
Corporate



Melissa Moravec
Denver
Corporate and
Health Care



Neil Nandi
Chicago
Corporate



Mary-Caitlin Ray
Washington, D.C.
Transportation



Laura Schwartz
Los Angeles
Litigation
White Collar and
Regulatory Enforcement



Roma Sharma
Washington, D.C.
Health Care



Josh Smith
Chicago
Patents



**Marieke Van
Nieuwenborgh**
Brussels
Antitrust and
Competition



Maria Vanikiotis
New York
International Trade



Yuan Zhou
Washington, D.C.
Government Contracts

FIRM HIGHLIGHTS

Newest Partners, Senior Counsel, and Counsel (continued)

Senior Counsel

- **Amy Karnikian**, Los Angeles, Aviation

Counsel

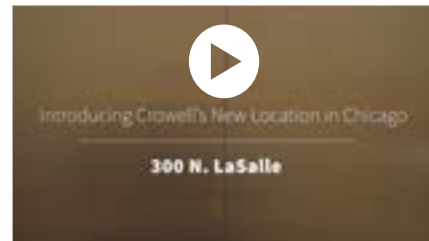
- **Fan Cheng**, Chicago, Advertising and Brand Protection
- **Tiffany Aguiar**, Orange County, Advertising and Brand Protection and Antitrust and Competition
- **Kevin Cacabelos**, San Francisco, Litigation
- **Jonathan Camello**, San Francisco, Corporate
- **Leslie Castello**, Washington, D.C., International Dispute Resolution
- **Jessica Chao**, Denver, Government Contracts
- **Emilie Condie**, London, Corporate and Financial Services
- **Christopher Dumont**, Brussels, Advertising and Brand Protection and Patents
- **Rachel Ellis**, Dallas, Health Care
- **David Favre**, Washington, D.C., Government Contracts and White Collar and Regulatory Enforcement
- **Eric Felleman**, New York, Litigation
- **Ryan Flynn**, New York, Corporate and Transportation
- **Elizabeth Heredia**, Chicago, Health Care
- **Philippa Lai**, London, Financial Services
- **Chandler Leonard**, Washington, D.C., International Trade
- **Rachel Lesser**, Washington, D.C., Antitrust and Competition and Labor and Employment
- **Melissa Nguyen**, Orange County, Antitrust and Competition
- **Paul Park**, Los Angeles, Litigation and White Collar and Regulatory Enforcement
- **Lynn Phan**, Washington, D.C., Environment, Energy and Natural Resources
- **Katherine Quinn**, Washington, D.C., White Collar and Regulatory Enforcement
- **Samuel Ruddy**, Washington, D.C., Health Care
- **Laurel Saito**, Washington, D.C., International Trade
- **Allison Skager**, Los Angeles, Government Contracts
- **Sarah Burgart Styles**, Washington, D.C., Government Contracts
- **Will Tucker**, Washington, D.C., Government Contracts and Health Care
- **Beth Warner**, London, Financial Services
- **Nikita Yogeshwarun**, Dallas, Health Care

FIRM HIGHLIGHTS

Chicago Office on the Move

Our Chicago office recently moved into a new space at 300 N. LaSalle in the River North neighborhood. We opened our Chicago office in 2021 with a premier intellectual property and technology practice, and over the last four years, have grown our client offerings through strategic additions in practices, including corporate, litigation, health care, and regulatory. The new space came at an ideal time, shortly after we expanded our health care practice with a market-leading team of more than 50 lawyers.

The new Chicago office features floor-to-ceiling windows, offering sweeping views of the Chicago River, and plenty of space for client and community meetings and events. Check out this video to learn more about the new space and come visit if you're in Chicago!



Check out [this video](#) to learn more about the space.



Alumni on the Move

Below is a short collection of updates on some of our alumni, but we would love to include more! Have you recently changed jobs, started a business, or been promoted? Drop us a line at alumni@crowell.com and let us know what you're up to so we can share with this community!

- **Ariel Amaru** (Washington, D.C., 2019–2021) is now Senior Facilitator and Coach at Project Shema.
- **Mary Bram** (Washington, D.C., 2008–2014) is now Associate General Counsel, Patent Prosecution at AbbVie.
- **Jonathan Cone** (Washington, D.C., 2008–2014) is now Divisional Counsel at International Justice Mission.
- **Michael DiFiore** (New York, 2018–2019) is now Assistant General Counsel at Endpoint Clinical.
- **Amanda DiSanto** (Washington, D.C., 2018–2020) is now Senior Counsel, Employment Litigation at Geico.
- **Julia A. Franklin** (Washington, D.C., 2008–2014) is now Attorney Advisor, Money Laundering, Narcotics and Forfeiture Section, Policy Unit, Criminal Division, at U.S. Department of Justice.
- **Chris Gagne** (Washington, D.C., 2004–2011) is now Principal, Federal Business at Logos Space.
- **Adrian Jones** (London, 2014–2019) is now Partner at Womble Bond Dickinson (UK) LLP.
- **Marty Mackowski** (Washington, D.C., 2016–2020) is now Director and Senior Counsel at RTX.
- **Brendan Sepulveda** (Washington, D.C., 2012–2019) is now Assistant Vice President, Senior Legal Counsel at AT&T.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Jini Koh

Jini Koh practiced at Crowell from 2011 to 2017, first in D.C. and then in New York. After leaving Crowell, she joined Amazon, followed by several years at Artsy. She joined CargoSprint as chief legal officer and corporate affairs officer in 2024. Jini holds a B.A. in international relations and environmental studies from Tulane University and earned her J.D. from The University of Alabama School of Law. Get to know Jini below!



Tell us about your time at Crowell and what you've been up to since.

I joined the International Trade Group in the D.C. office in 2011. Coming from a clerkship at the (now famous) Court of International Trade and consulting, I already had a strong baseline knowledge of customs and trade matters, but Crowell is where I really expanded my skillset, worked on trade litigation cases, and was able to deepen my legal experience through pro bono matters. I was then lucky enough to transfer to the New York office and launch the Trade Group there in 2015. The team there generously enveloped me and the Trade Group into the New York office culture where we broadened the cross-functionality of the group with the IP, Corporate, White Collar, and Litigation groups.

In 2017, when President Trump was elected, we all knew it would be a wild few years for trade and customs given that it was such a headline in his campaign.

I made the big (career-changing) decision to join Amazon as the customs lawyer for the retail and logistics side. Wild years was an understatement—Amazon was in expansion mode and I learned and accomplished things in compressed timelines that now seem on the verge of the absurd. The unexpected gift at Amazon was that you could change teams and essentially become a whole new lawyer—folks jumped from AWS to studios or devices to marketing—which seems unheard of when you're more senior in your career.

I was challenged to switch from my (then 15-year) regulatory practice as a trade expert to the operational and commercial side of global logistics. I led the global logistics legal team just as COVID was really ramping up and a boat got stuck in the Suez ... 6 weeks before Prime Day in Europe ... and I got to explain the law of the sea to a bunch of retail executives who refused to accept that Instant Pots may not make it in time. Happily, we figured out and launched a China > EU rail solution in a matter of days so no one missed out on their Prime deals.

COVID extended my sell-by date there, and when it was time to leave, I sought a smaller team where I could make a bigger strategic impact. I landed at an amazing fine art e-commerce late-stage company called Artsy. I loved working with more creative people, merging tech and art, and counter-balancing the world of a million widgets to a unique one of one item. I also picked up all the other legal skills one needs to be successful in-house—employment (bleh), lots and lots of contracts (bleh +1), corporate, board management, etc. Which were all the right components to bring me to where I am now – chief legal and corporate affairs officer at CargoSprint. And I'm lucky (and old enough) to get to choose who I work with as the CEO and CPO are both former Amazon business clients. We offer orchestration solutions for logistics companies, particularly in the payments and appointments space.

In my role, I provide the legal support for the company's products and operations, corporate administration, and also, because of my regulatory background, strategic input on our customers and stakeholders who include port authorities, marine terminals, air cargo handlers, truckers, and the other folks who keep commerce moving.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: JINI KOH, CONTINUED

“The lesson I’ve learned from experience, particularly from my time at Crowell, is to be open to change and maintain a growth mindset.”

What skills or experiences from your time at Crowell have proven most valuable in your current role at CargoSprint?

- **Cheap Booze** (what the weekly happy hours were referred to at the time) and the attendant emails (iykyk). The work is serious. But you needn’t take yourself too seriously.
- **Pro bono work**—not just because I, like many at the firm, believe it’s our moral obligation as lawyers to share our skills with those who are intimidated or bullied because they do not have access to the law, but because it also was the first time I was able to branch out beyond my “expertise” and learn new practice areas.
- **Cross-functional thinking and problem-solving**—trade is inherently cross-functional. And solving problems for clients requires cross-functional thinking.

What do you consider your most impactful accomplishment, and how did you achieve it?

Learning the business side—how to digest and influence a P&L. Contributing meaningfully to a company’s EBIDTA. Being able to evaluate options from both a legal and commercial point of view. While many lawyers may joke that they’re not strong in math, this is the language our clients speak, and to be the invaluable partner they value in a lawyer, you have to speak their language. I got there over years of practice and learning—everything from YouTube courses to TED talks to being comfortable if my questions sounded elementary in internal business meetings.

What are the most significant challenges you face in your current role, and how do you approach problem-solving?

Making only smart mistakes. The hardest part of being a decider in a <\$100M revenue company is that making the wrong call can have outsized impact (unlike really big companies who can absorb risk without even making it a footnote in the 10K or financials). So I try to make only smart, thoughtful mistakes—ones where I’ve assessed the risk, mitigated the downside as best I can, figured out where I can push the line, and made sure that I (and the team/ the company) learn from every decision so it moves us forward.

What advice would you give to current law students or early-career lawyers looking to make a meaningful impact in their field?

Be intellectually curious. If you’re thoughtfully engaged, you’ll genuinely learn. This becomes a skill you never forget and can deploy in the darnedest of circumstances (e.g, the law of the sea). If it’s just a billable hour to you, you’re replaceable.

How do you balance the demands of your high-pressure role with personal interests and self-care?

See 2.a above, preferably on a beach. And try to fiercely be a good partner, good sibling, good child, good friend, good to my body. I briefly took up paint by numbers (Artsy influence) which was a hoot. And one day, I will have a garden—a garden seems like the kind of hobby that instills patience.

What is next for you, and how do you see your career evolving over the next few years?

I consider myself both smart and lucky—I’m a hard worker, which has created amazing opportunities for me. What’s next always seems to involve that alchemical mix. The lesson I’ve learned from experience, particularly from my time at Crowell, is to be open to change and maintain a growth mindset.

NEW FACES

Recent Lateral Partners

We are thrilled to highlight the lateral partners who have joined the firm since July:



John Paik

John joined Crowell as a partner in our Intellectual Property Department in Orange County.

John is an experienced IP attorney with a proven track record of helping companies successfully develop, protect, and monetize global patent portfolios. He advises on IP strategy for high-growth and established companies, guiding high-stakes transactions, including mergers and acquisitions and IPO readiness, by drawing on deep technical experience across electrical engineering, life sciences, and artificial intelligence. John joined Crowell from GRAIL, a biotechnology company, where he served as senior director and head of intellectual property.



Joshua Robbins

Josh joined Crowell as a partner in the Orange County office, strengthening our market-leading health care litigation team and further expanding the firm's ability

to handle complex health care fraud cases. Josh represents clients in high-stakes fraud litigation and investigations, primarily in the health care and life science industries. He has been lead counsel in dozens of trials and arbitrations, dozens of appeals, and hundreds of investigations, acting for both plaintiffs and defendants in federal and state courts and in domestic and international arbitrations, and involving subject matter ranging from health care fraud to antitrust to patents. Josh joined Crowell from Buchalter, where he was co-chair of the White Collar and Government Investigations practice. Prior to private practice, he served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Central District of California.



Liesbeth Truyens

Liesbeth joined Crowell as a partner in our International Trade Group in Brussels, further strengthening the firm's ability to serve sophisticated clients across the EU facing complex

sanctions and export control issues. Liesbeth brings over 15 years of experience, both as outside counsel and from within an EU-based financial institution, advising clients on economic sanctions, export controls, supply chain considerations, and commercial disputes. Liesbeth's practice focuses on a broad range of compliance matters, including export controls, anti-money laundering, anti-bribery, the Private Investigations Act, and related regulatory concerns. Prior to joining Crowell, she served as the head of the sanctions, export controls, and compliance practice at Schoups BV. Before joining Schoups BV in 2020, Liesbeth worked for two international law firms and served for four years as an in-house legal counsel for an international banking and insurance group in Brussels.



Aubry Daerden

Aubry joined Crowell's Brussels office as a partner in the Corporate Group, expanding the firm's capability to represent clients on complex Belgian and EU corporate

transactions. Aubry assists large corporate groups and private equity sponsors and their portfolio companies in their acquisitions and divestments in a wide range of industries, including transportation, health care, and technology. He also frequently represents emerging technology companies, venture capital firms, and corporate investors throughout all investment cycles. Alongside his transactional practice, Aubry regularly advises non-listed companies, family shareholders, and trade associations on corporate governance matters and restructurings. Prior to joining Crowell, he practiced at DLA Piper.

NEW FACES

Recent Lateral Partners (continued)



Jeffrey Gleason

Jeff joined Crowell as a partner in the Health Care Group in the Boston office. His practice focuses on health care law, government investigations, and complex business litigation.

Jeff has deep experience representing health insurers in multimillion-dollar disputes, including matters involving fraud, federal and state Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations statutes (RICO), state consumer protection laws, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), breach of contract, the No Surprises Act (NSA), and the False Claims Act (FCA). Prior to joining Crowell, Jeff was the co-founder and co-chair of the Health Care Practice at Robins Kaplan LLP. Before his private practice, he spent four years as a trial attorney in the Civil Fraud Section of the U.S. Department of Justice, where he led multi-agency investigations and litigation involving the FCA and Anti-Kickback Statute, focusing on health care fraud.



William Reiss

A first-chair litigator with nearly 25 years of experience in leading complex antitrust class actions, Will joined Crowell as a partner in our Antitrust and Competition Group in

New York. Will leverages his class action experience to spearhead direct action affirmative recovery litigation for corporate clients who have been harmed by competitors, suppliers, and strategic partners. He assists clients facing antitrust violations in successfully navigating complex

legal challenges to achieve favorable outcomes. Will also regularly offers antitrust counseling to corporate clients. Will joined the firm from Robins Kaplan, where he was a partner and head of its New York antitrust group.



Rajeev Raghavan

Rajeev, a former special counsel to the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and federal prosecutor, joined Crowell as a partner in the Privacy and Cybersecurity Group in

Washington, D.C. As special counsel to the FBI director, Rajeev advised on high-profile cyber initiatives, AI strategy and risk, and internal security modernization. Based on his deep understanding of technology, he played a key role in the Bureau's efforts to combat cybercrime and national security threats and was a trusted advisor to the director and FBI senior leadership on cybersecurity strategy and policy, AI and other transformational technologies, federal surveillance authorities, criminal and national security investigations, and legislative oversight. At Crowell, he will advise clients on issues that cut across law, technology, and government policy, including helping to navigate high-stakes cybersecurity, privacy, and national security matters, as well as data breach investigations, regulatory inquiries, enforcement actions, and congressional investigations.



CAREERS@CROWELL

We love introductions to great talent, and we love when alumni return to Crowell. Check out our latest job postings [here](#).

Great Work
With Great People

Collaboration
as a Core Value

Be Your
Authentic Self

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Michele St. Mary

Michele St. Mary practiced in Crowell's Washington, D.C. office from 1995 to 2000. After leaving Crowell, she worked at Sun Microsystems and then for nearly 20 years at L3 Harris. She joined Amentum as chief legal officer and general counsel in 2025. Michele holds a B.A. in political science from Yale University and earned her J.D. from Yale Law School. Get to know Michele below!



Tell us how you started out at Crowell and about your time at the firm.

I studied political science in undergrad and always had an interest in government, which stayed with me throughout law school. When I was interviewing for summer associate positions, I had narrowed down the city but wasn't certain about the firm. With Crowell, it was two things: first, the firm had a public service partner, which stood out to me. At the time, that was rare at law firms; it really emphasized Crowell's focus on public interest, which was important to me. Second, the individual who conducted my on-campus interview, Chris Farris, was fantastic making me excited about the firm.

I joined a class of 40 summer associates, and then after finishing my J.D. at Yale, we were a class of 20, many of whom I still keep in touch with after all these years. We were a tightknit group. Initially, I was split between litigation and government contracts. After a short time at the firm, I leaned into government contracts and health care. One of my great mentors, Shauna Alonge, was building a health care government contracts practice at Crowell and took me under her wing. To me, every job is about the people, which is why I remain closely connected to my Crowell roots—the people were, and continue to be, amazing.

What inspired you to make the leap to in-house?

I have never had, and still don't, a strict three-, five- or other year plan. I was open to learning and took the approach of excelling in what I was doing until it felt like I needed a change, then exploring new opportunities. I was very happy at Crowell, but an opportunity came up with a firm client, Sun Microsystems, which seemed like a great new challenge. Chris Farris, who recruited me from law school and who had been a friend and mentor at Crowell, was at Sun as well, so again, it came down to the people and embracing where things took me. It was a great decision.

At that point in my career, I was often the only woman on the team and frequently the youngest; something I got used to and with which I became comfortable. Being in-house was new and different where the focus was enabling the business while ensuring compliance, while embracing constant change, which drove growth for me. After about five years, I joined Harris Corporation, which later became L3Harris, and stayed for close to 20 years. I started as an individual contributor, then my role grew and expanded to include contracts, ethics, and compliance, a variety of different businesses and corporate functions. As the company changed, there were more opportunities and more growth for me. Through this expansion of roles, I learned about every aspect of the business and in-house legal. What I love most about being in-house is the connection to the business side and being an integrated business partner, not purely a legal advisor and I absolutely gained that experience at L3Harris, which ultimately prepared me well for my current role.

How did your career take you to your current role at Amentum?

The Amentum opportunity was perfect. I knew Amentum and some of its leadership from my time in IT Services at Harris, and after spending many of my Harris/L3Harris years involved in transitions and integrations and the last several in the public company governance space, Amentum's announced merger and plans to go public seemed right in my sweet spot. I reached out to start a conversation.

One thing that positions me well in this role is my passion for the business aspect. Historically, general counsel managed just legal issues, but that has changed for the better. GCs are now expected to be strategic partners, which I love as it allows me to bring both my legal and business perspectives, diving deeply into the company's strategy and supporting it with my team.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: MICHELE ST. MARY, CONTINUED

You've been at Amentum just over a year. What's one overarching aspiration you have for the Amentum legal department?

I want us to embrace being strategic business partners. We work on many things and need to connect with the right people—for example, how we interact with HR during an internal investigation or identify enterprise risks when someone is leaving the company. The best way to add value is to be in those rooms, participate in those conversations, and connect with the right people.

Inside a corporation, almost nothing is a simple question of legality; it typically involves bringing judgment and recommendations into conversations. To do that, we need full integration. We are certainly tackling structural and process-oriented challenges, but I ensure that business integration remains one of my main goals.

Who have been your most significant mentors or influences throughout your career, and what lessons did you learn from them?

I've been fortunate to have some exceptional mentors. Shauna, whom I mentioned earlier, played a significant role in my early career, as did her mentors Ken Bruntel, who I very much miss, and who was always a source of advice and support throughout my career.

In addition to my legal mentors, I had business mentors, a President from my early days in-house at Harris, Ted Hengst was one in particular.

One of the lessons they taught me, which I emphasize with my mentees, is that you are the driver of your career. You need to get to a point where your work speaks for itself and reminds others who you are, how you got there, and what you bring to the table. My mentors have always encouraged me to take charge, ask for opportunities, and be deliberate about plotting my career path.

I would also be remiss not to mention my dad, who has been a phenomenal mentor. He instilled early on that nobody will hand you opportunities—you have to seize them and work hard for them. Over the years, I've had many mentors who have looked out for me, all emphasizing the importance of owning your future and advocating for yourself.

What is your approach to managing high-performing teams?

I would never ask my team to do something I'm not willing to do myself. We are all in this together and have to work as a team. My son, who is a paralegal in the city, teases me because I'm often rolling up my sleeves and assembling documents, but it's essential—if the team is working late to prepare documents, I do so alongside them.

Effective management requires thoughtful and mindful communication customized to each individual. People are unique; some require direct feedback, while others are motivated by a gentler approach, so I tailor my methods to meet their needs.

It's also crucial that everyone on the team feels connected to the end goal. I want team members at every level to know their role matters and contributes to the organization's success.

How do you balance the demands of your high-pressure role with personal interests and self-care?

I always work long hours, had a commute (for some years weekly to Florida), and juggled family responsibilities. However, as my kids have grown, I find I have the opportunity to focus more on carving out time for myself. Recently, I've taken up cooking as a hobby, which has been excellent. I enjoy exploring an unending supply of new cookbooks—along with the New York Times Cooking app—for new recipes.

My mother and two sisters are creative—one is a painter, another is in interior design and fashion, and the other is a marine biologist who knits, gardens and makes mosaics in her spare time. For a long time, I thought I lacked a creative side. But cooking has become a fantastic creative outlet for me, helping me disconnect and recharge.

Moreover, I'm very close to my family and friends. For me, relationships are everything, and I'm grateful to have a wonderful family and some great friends. Spending time with them is my ultimate way to de-stress.

CONGRATULATIONS

Retired Partners and Senior Counsel

Congratulations to the senior counsel who have retired since fall 2025. These lawyers made significant impacts on Crowell and the legal community, and we are proud they chose to practice with us. We look forward to keeping in touch with them and we wish them well in their retirement!



Greg Call
San Francisco



Laura Foggan
Washington, D.C.



Bill Frankel
Chicago



John Freeman
Chicago



Nicole Owren-Wiest
Washington, D.C.



David Siegel
Washington, D.C.



Laurence Winston
London



Clifford Zatz
Washington, D.C.

CLE RESOURCES

We are pleased to offer our alumni the CLE resources listed below. For questions about these benefits, contact our [CLE Team](#).

Hotshot Legal (CLE and Learning Content)

Hotshot is a learning platform that offers 300+ short, practical videos and related resources across corporate, litigation, and business topics. They also offer CLE in nearly all MCLE jurisdictions. The firm has a limited number of subscriptions available for firm alumni. If you are interested in a subscription, please email our [CLE Team](#).

Crowell & Moring On Demand CLE Resource

We recently rolled out a CLE resource for our firm alumni and clients, which we are adding to on a rolling basis. Credit is available in a limited number of MCLE jurisdictions including CA, CO, FL, IL, NY, PA, and VA; reciprocal credit in CT and NJ. Please refer to [this website](#) as we continue to add new programs.

We regularly host educational, informative, and social events, both in person and virtually. Make sure you are [subscribed](#) to stay in the loop, and check out our website to learn more about upcoming [events](#).



STAY CONNECTED

Join our alumni network as we celebrate achievements, reminisce about shared experiences, and forge new connections. If you have ideas about what you would like to see in future editions of this newsletter, please don't hesitate to get in touch at alumni@crowell.com.



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