

Crowell & Moring Adds Tech Firm IP Atty In Southern Calif.

By **James Mills**

Law360 (January 28, 2026, 4:57 PM EST) -- Crowell & Moring LLP is expanding its California team, bringing in an intellectual property attorney most recently with biotechnology firm Grail as a partner in its Orange County office in Irvine.

John Paik has joined Crowell & Moring's IP department, the firm announced Tuesday. He spent the past three years as senior director and head of IP at Grail, the 10-year-old healthcare biotech startup focused on developing early cancer screening tests. There, he guided the IP team on product development and commercialization, as well as protected its discoveries, software and analytics.



John Paik

At Crowell & Moring, Paik will focus his practice on advising technology and life sciences clients on licensing, patent portfolio strategy and management, IP enforcement and defense, due diligence for financings and transactions, mergers and acquisitions, and initial public offering readiness.

In a Wednesday morning interview, Paik told Law360 he was looking forward to returning to private practice. He is especially happy to be joining a firm like Crowell & Moring with a strong IP practice, plus equally robust practices in life sciences, technology and regulatory matters.

"I wanted to work at a firm where IP is not practiced in a vacuum," Paik said. "What I realized working in-house is that IP issues overlap with other issues. I had to collaborate with other attorneys in other spaces like privacy and regulatory. I realized I could provide the best service to clients by being a firm that had strong teams in these areas."

He especially liked the fact that Crowell & Moring was looking to expand on the West Coast.

"Crowell is in a growth mode and building out its West Coast capabilities for IP technology," Paik said. "It just seemed like a great opportunity that I wanted to be a part of. I have a tremendous amount of respect for some of my colleagues here and colleagues I knew beforehand. It was a tremendous opportunity and the right time to join this team."

Paik noted that Grail was operating at the "intersection of life science and artificial intelligence," and he will bring his experience of working in-house to his work at Crowell & Moring.

"I understand the importance of integrating our expertise in IP and the law in general to the client's

business goals. I did that while I was in-house," Paik said. "I understand the needs of in-house attorneys and what they are going through and the challenges that they face. I have firsthand experience with that, and I will draw on that to position our clients for success."

Trevor K. Copeland, co-chair of Crowell & Moring's patents group, is enthusiastic about Paik joining.

"John's unique blend of engineering, life sciences, and technology know-how strengthens our ability to help clients identify, protect, and maximize the value of their cutting-edge IP," Copeland said in a statement. "Having worked at the intersection of technical leadership and legal strategy, both in-house and at law firms, he has a unique understanding of the challenges facing IP owners as they seek to grow and innovate."

Meanwhile, Deborah E. Arbabi, managing partner of Crowell & Moring's Orange County office, said Paik's arrival supports the firm's strategic focus on expanding its Orange County and West Coast capabilities.

"In today's fast-moving environment — especially with the rise of generative AI and the region's vibrant technology and life sciences industries — it's critical for our clients to have access to top talent who understand the latest innovations," Arbabi said in a statement. "John's leadership and insight further cement Crowell's position as the go-to firm for complex IP matters in this dynamic market."

Paik, who grew up in Los Angeles, earned his law degree in 2001 from Cornell Law School. He also has a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Cornell University and a master's degree in physiological science from the University of California, Los Angeles.

He worked four years as an associate with Knobbe Martens, then moved to O'Melveny & Myers LLP for three years, according to his LinkedIn profile.

In 2008, he moved to IP-focused Novak Druce Connolly Bove & Quigg LLP. Then, in 2013, Paik returned to Knobbe Martens, staying for the next nine years. In 2022, he decided to go in-house, joining Grail.

Paik said he has always had an interest in the sciences and technology.

"The development of technology is fascinating, but there's always the question of who owns these rights and how can these rights be used," Paik said. "I know how much effort and resources can go into developing technologies. I love being able to work with individuals and companies to protect the fruits of their labor and innovation."

Crowell & Moring was founded in 1979 in Washington, D.C., and today has about 650 attorneys in 12 offices worldwide, including eight in the U.S.

--Editing by Jay Jackson Jr.

