

Crowell & Moring Taps Hogan Lovells Atty For DC Tax Group

By Jack Rodgers

Law360 (May 18, 2023, 7:02 AM EDT) -- Crowell & Moring LLP has added a longtime Hogan Lovells partner whose practice focuses on a range of transactional tax work, to help lead its tax group in Washington, D.C., the firm announced Thursday.

Christine K. Lane joins Crowell & Moring as co-chair of the firm's tax group and will continue her practice representing corporate clients in transactional tax matters. As co-leader of the tax group, Lane will expand Crowell & Moring's ability to work with clients looking to understand U.S. federal tax issues in complex business transactions, cross-border mergers, acquisitions, joint ventures and recapitalizations, the firm said.



Christine K. Lane

A Florida State University College of Law graduate, Lane also holds a master's degree in tax law, which she earned from Georgetown University Law Center, according to her LinkedIn profile.

She spent a little more than five years as an attorney in the Office of Chief Counsel at the Internal Revenue Service to start her legal career, where her practice focused on the taxation of insurance companies, products and transactions involving life and property and casualty insurance companies, the firm said.

In addition to those responsibilities, Lane handled matters before the U.S. Tax Court and U.S. Bankruptcy Court, and Crowell & Moring said she worked as a special assistant U.S. attorney.

Before joining Hogan Lovells in 2013, Lane worked briefly as a tax manager for PricewaterhouseCoopers, according to her LinkedIn profile.

At Hogan Lovells, Lane represented a number of Fortune 50 clients, Crowell & Moring said. While with that firm, Lane helped represent GE Healthcare in the acquisition of life science-related technology from Thermo Fisher for more than a billion dollars.

Her practice also includes advising clients on tax structuring issues associated with initial public offerings, as well as private equity and private placements for clients with established and emerging corporations, Crowell & Moring said in a news release.

Lane has previously helped advise emerging corporations focused on artificial intelligence on tax

structuring, the firm said, and counsels U.S. and foreign insurers on transactional issues, the firm said.

In an interview with Law360 Pulse on Wednesday, Lane said she had known S. Starling Marshall, co-chair of Crowell & Moring's tax group, for more than a decade — one of the many draws for Lane to move her practice from Hogan Lovells.

When Lane worked with the IRS, Marshall was working with the U.S. Department of Justice, which brought the pair together through working on similar tax-related issues.

While Lane's work focuses on transactional tax issues, Marshall's practice focuses on tax controversy issues, Lane said. The pair's dual focus helps deepen the experience on the bench of tax attorneys with Crowell & Moring and helps build a full-service tax offering, Lane said.

Lane also said Crowell & Moring's entrepreneurial spirit and mindset to grow its tax practice were other driving factors behind her decision to move from Hogan Lovells. She added that being part of a female-led team was another driving consideration when she moved her practice.

The firm has grown significantly in 2023. Crowell & Moring's 2023 partner class, which promoted 16 attorneys to partner across 12 practice areas, was the largest in firm history, and recent additions to the D.C. office alone this year includes Aaron Cummings, the former chief of staff to Iowa Republican Sen. Chuck Grassley, and longtime Justice Department environmental trial attorney Shennie Patel.

Adrienne Mendenhall, who joined from Access Health International along with two other former members of that company in Singapore, has also boosted the Crowell & Moring platform in D.C.

"I think as a firm we have a growth mindset, particularly in the transnational space," Lane said. "That's certainly part of my mandate, is to come and deepen that expertise in the tax practice area."

Lane was initially interested in pursuing a securities law practice, and a joint degree program to earn a law degree and master's in business administration, she said. A professor inspired her to pursue tax law, and after missing a summer interview to join her joint degree program, Lane felt that and other signs had shown her tax law was where she was meant to focus.

"Decided at the last minute, that I was not going to do that J.D., MBA and when I got to the [on-campus interview] there was one job posting left on the board and it was for the Internal Revenue Service in Jacksonville, Florida, with SBSE, Small Business Self Employed," Lane said. "And I thought, 'You know what, the stars are aligning, I have a professor who said you might want to think about tax, this is the only job that's left on the board since I decided not to do the MBA,' so I took the job at the IRS and the rest is history."

Lane said her tax transactional work was across a number of industries, but that she did focus her work closely with clients in the health care and life sciences industries. Clients also were interested in artificial intelligence and biotechnology, she said.

"Bringing all of that expertise to a platform to Crowell & Moring that already has a well-established health care and life sciences practice is certainly something that I'm looking to complement and help further grow," she said.

Jennifer K. Grady, co-chair of Crowell & Moring's transactional department, said in a statement that

Lane's background would allow her "to slot right into our corporate work," especially with related mergers and acquisition issues.

"Her ability to guide clients through the entire lifecycle of a deal, understanding the tax implications and structures required before corporate teams are even brought in, is an incredible asset," Grady said in a statement.

Marshall said in a statement that the firm was proud to have a tax group made up of attorneys from broad backgrounds such as Lane.

"Christine will play an important role as we continue to expand our team and deepen our capabilities," she said in a statement.

--Additional reporting by Melissa Lipman, Andrea Keckley and Alison Knezevich. Editing by Jay Jackson Jr.