

## Crowell & Moring Picks Google Atty For Practice Leadership

By **Andrea Keckley**

*Law360 (July 15, 2026, 3:50 PM EDT)* -- Crowell & Moring LLP said Wednesday that it has hired Google's former regulatory affairs counsel for global legislative oversight to lead its congressional investigations team, touting his combined government, law firm and in-house experience.

"The chance for me, given my experience and background, to come into a moment like this in a place like this is really exciting," James Bair told Law360 Pulse on Wednesday.



James Bair

Bair brings more than a decade of experience handling high-profile congressional oversight matters to his new role. Before his time with Google, he served as senior oversight counsel for the House Committee on Foreign Affairs majority staff, directing the committee's oversight and investigations of U.S. foreign policy, foreign military assistance and overseas weapons sales, foreign aid, misuse of official resources, public diplomacy and War Powers for the 116th Congress.

Bair also served as an attorney-adviser at the U.S. State Department, where he handled investigations into the 2012 attacks on U.S. facilities in Benghazi, Libya, among other high-profile controversies.

"The first big investigation I was involved in was at the State Department with the Benghazi investigation, which I always think of as the sea change where it suddenly was more politicized than it ever had been," he said.

Before his time in government, Bair worked as a litigator for Brown Rudnick LLP and clerked for the late Justice Barbara Lenk when she was on the Massachusetts Appeals Court. He said he appreciated Crowell & Moring's strength not only in its investigation practice but also in its adjacent specialties.

"I do expect we may be in a position to grow this further, but I think we want to do it in a way that makes sense for the firm and makes sense for the clients," he added.

Bair earned his law degree from the Northeastern University School of Law. His expertise spans artificial intelligence, national security, global election integrity and online content moderation.

"With extensive, firsthand experience at the center of some of the highest-profile investigations of the past decade, James understands the complex and evolving needs our clients face with growing

investigative and compliance scrutiny," Daniel Zelenko, chair of the white collar and regulatory enforcement group, said in a statement.

--Editing by Alyssa Miller.

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