

Orrick Benefits Partner Jumps To Crowell & Moring

By Chart Riggall

Law360 (September 20, 2023, 9:14 AM EDT) -- Crowell & Moring LLP said Wednesday that the firm has hired a veteran executive compensation and employee benefits attorney in its Washington, D.C., tax group.

Joe Urwitz joins the firm as a partner after spending the last two years with Orrick Herrington & Suffolk LLP, working out of its Boston location.

With a practice that largely focuses on compensation and benefits issues during private equity transactions and mergers and acquisitions, the firm said, the addition of Urwitz is expected to bolster the D.C. tax group after it brought on longtime Hogan Lovells partner Christine K. Lane in May to co-lead the practice.



Joe Urwitz

"We are focused on expanding our transactional tax practice and Joe's experience is key in taking our benefits practice to the next level," Lane said in a statement. "Joe deepens our bench strength to handle our increasing flow of complex corporate transactional work."

A graduate of Williams College and University of Chicago Law School, Urwitz began his career in 2005 as an associate with Goodwin Procter LLP, according to his LinkedIn profile. From 2008 to 2011, he worked with Ropes & Gray LLP, before spending the following decade with McDermott Will & Emery LLP.

In 2021, Urwitz departed for Orrick's Boston office. He told Law360 at the time that he decided to specialize in benefits and compensation after he attended a lunch presentation as a summer associate at Jones Day. After that presentation, he said, he was hooked — and he followed the lawyer out the door to try to get started on a project.

His past work includes helping health care improvement company Premier Inc. when it went public, as well as working with private equity funds in their acquisitions of portfolio companies and working for Goldman Sachs on ERISA matters, he told Law360.

According to Crowell & Moring, Urwitz's work has also included advising Boston-area hospitals on pension plan matters, an insurance company on a phantom unit plan for its leaders, and a private equity firm's \$3 billion purchase of a cable channel.

"I was drawn to Crowell for its strong collaborative culture," Urwitz said in a statement. "I'm excited to use my experience to continue to expand Crowell's compensations and benefits practice."

Jennifer K. Grady, co-chair of Crowell & Moring's transactional department, added, "Joe will be an asset to our growing transactional practice and will advise on the sensitive issues involving senior executives."

Aside from the May hire of tax co-chair Lane, Urwitz's addition continues a string of new partners for Crowell & Moring. Last week, the firm said it had hired veteran litigator Eric Aronson away from Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP, and in July, it brought on Joseph J. Palermo as the firm's new chief operating officer, a title he previously held at Lowenstein Sandler LLP.

--Editing by Alyssa Miller.

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