

‘High stakes’ litigator leaves Knobbe for Crowell & Moring

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Tom Phillips



Complex technology expert helped Masimo win £466m pulse oximetry case | First chair and second chair litigator spent nearly 30 years at previous firm | Joins growing firm that has seen 60 partners join since 2019.

Crowell & Moring has hired long-time Knobbe Martens litigator [Jon Gurka](#) as a partner in the firm’s IP department, bringing nearly three decades of experience to the firm.

Focusing on complex patent litigation, Gurka’s practice spans patent, trademark, trade dress, copyright, trade secret, unfair competition, and breach of contract matters.

Prior to joining Crowell, Gurkha spent 27 years at Knobbe, handling cases involving a wide variety of complex technologies including blockchain, semiconductor processing and computer hardware.

He also served as co-chair of Knobbe's Electrical Engineering/Computer Science/Consumer Electronics Litigation Practice Group and Trade Secret/Employment Mobility Litigation Practice Group.

"Jon is an important strategic fit, bringing a rare combination of defensive patent litigation experience, as well as plaintiff-side patent litigation," said [Anne Li](#), co-chair of Crowell's Patents Practice Group.

Gurka has served as a first chair or second chair trial lawyer in numerous jury and bench trials. He helped score a [\\$466-million verdict for Masimo](#) in a jury trial against Philips Electronics North America and Philips Medizin Systeme Böblingen based on infringement of its patents covering pulse oximetry technology.

He also led the successful defence against Philips' counterclaims seeking \$169 million for alleged infringement of its patents—the jury found no liability and awarded zero damages.

Crowell continues expansion

Over the past several years, Crowell has created one of the largest IP practices in the US, combining with [Brinks, Gilson & Lione](#), adding [Sari Depreeuw](#) in Brussels, [Jason Stiehl](#) in Chicago, and most recently, a [three-person intellectual property team](#) led by IP litigator Paul Keller in New York.

Since 2019, the firm has added more than 60 lateral partners to its IP, litigation, regulatory, and transactional departments, said the firm in a statement.

"Jon's arrival is a really exciting expansion of the patent litigation team in our Southern California offices where we have a growing number of technology clients based on the West Coast," said [Deborah Arbabi](#), managing partner of Crowell & Moring's Orange County office.

"Crowell has built a premier IP practice. A transition to a full-service firm will allow me to expand my practice, fully support clients in complex cases, and further build on my experience," said Gurka.

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