

Crowell & Moring Boosts NY Office With Ex-Kirkland IP Atty

By Kelly Knaub

Law360 (February 13, 2018, 1:47 PM EST) -- Crowell & Moring LLP has added to its intellectual property group's New York office a former Kirkland & Ellis LLP attorney who brings more than a decade of experience in IP litigation and patent portfolio management.

Crowell & Moring announced on Jan. 29 that Brian Paul Gearing joined the firm as a partner. He officially joined Jan. 22, he told Law360 via email. In addition to spending the last seven years with Kirkland — five of them as a partner — he previously spent three years with Morrison & Foerster in Tokyo and three years at Weil Gotshal & Manges in New York, he said.



Brian Gearing

Crowell & Moring's "international reputation for representing global and emerging companies across the full spectrum of legal services and their willingness to craft flexible, alternative fee arrangements to suit the needs of their clients," is what attracted him to the firm, Gearing said.

"I was particularly impressed by Crowell & Moring's talented and deep bench of IP lawyers, many of whom I have known by reputation throughout the past decade and some with whom I have worked in connection with certain litigations over the years," Gearing said. "Combining the foregoing with Crowell & Moring's entrepreneurialism and focus on growth of their IP presence in the United States, including in New York and California, and abroad, including in East Asia, made it a perfect fit for my professional and personal goals, and naturally built upon my experience working for clients while living in the U.S. and in Tokyo."

He said he will mainly focus his practice on IP litigation, including patent litigation before federal district courts and the U.S. International Trade Commission, as well as trade secret, trademark and copyright disputes. In addition, he said, he will advise clients in connection with IP portfolio management and adversarial patent licensing negotiations, and opinion work regarding noninfringement and invalidity.

Gearing derived broad technical experience from his six years of graduate study at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he concentrated on mechanical engineering and material science, as well as from more than a dozen years he spent working as an IP litigator, he said.

"The technical subject matter of my cases has ranged across a number of industries, including cancer fighting drugs, horticulture, semiconductor design and manufacturing, microprocessor design, wireless

communications, and networking equipment and architecture,” Gearing said. “My principal clients have in recent years been in the networking equipment and architecture space, but my broad technical expertise allows me to tackle basically any technical subject matter. I have also been focused more recently on IP issues arising in the blockchain, augmented reality and artificial intelligence spaces.”

He earned his law degree from the University of California Berkeley School of Law and his undergraduate degree from the University of Maryland. He also holds a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from MIT.

“Brian has a stellar international reputation as a seasoned IP litigator who naturally complements our robust intellectual property practice,” Jeffrey D. Sanok, who chairs the firm’s IP practice, said in a statement. “His experience will allow us to enhance relationships in Southeast Asia — a critical area of the world for us.”

--Editing by Dipti Coorg.