

## Sen. Grassley's Former Chief Of Staff Joins Crowell & Moring

By **Andrea Keckley**

*Law360 (May 1, 2023, 12:02 AM EDT)* -- Crowell & Moring LLP announced Monday that it has hired the former chief of staff to Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, to co-chair the firm's government affairs group.

Aaron Cummings will chair the group alongside partner Jim Flood, the former counsel to Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y.

"With [Grassley] starting another term in the Senate — he has another six years — and I've spent a number of years in the Senate, and so it was just kind of a natural time for a transition to the private sector," Cummings told Law360 Pulse on Wednesday.

In his new position, Crowell & Moring says Cummings will advise and advocate for clients on legislative matters like financial services, antitrust, health care, energy, intellectual property, artificial intelligence, technology, agriculture and national security. He will also work with the firm's investigative team.

Cummings says there are a number of areas where Congress will need to take action, such as in the health care industry.

"In addition to that, I would say two of the areas that I think are going to be transformative to the American economy in the coming years are the energy sector and artificial intelligence," he added. "And I think Crowell & Moring, as a law firm, is really poised to offer clients a lot of value, not just in the government affairs arena, but in our other practices, as well. And I think that companies who are interested in these issues are going to need to think across it in a very sophisticated way."

In Congress, Cummings served as the chief constitution and crime counsel for the Senate Judiciary Committee, while Grassley was the panel's ranking member. When Grassley was chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Cummings advised him on constitutional, civil rights, criminal and administrative law, according to Crowell & Moring. He was also the lead Senate Republican negotiator on the First Step Act, a criminal justice reform bill signed by former President Donald Trump in 2018.

"Aaron's record of bipartisan legislative accomplishments will serve as a road map to help our clients achieve their goals in Washington as he knows how to cut through the partisanship to deliver results," firm chair Philip T. Inglima said in a statement. "His legislative and executive branch experience will be valuable to clients navigating issues on Capitol Hill across a wide range of industries."

Other committees Cummings has worked with include finance, budget and agricultural. According to

Crowell & Moring, he also has experience navigating the Farm Bill, which is due for reauthorization this year.

"Obviously, we're headed for a presidential election, we have divided government, so it's unclear how much can get done in those circumstances," Cummings said. "But I think there's broad consensus that a farm bill needs to pass."

Cummings earned his law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law. His prior work includes serving as associate director of speechwriting under former President George W. Bush.

"Aaron brings Senate chief of staff experience, unparalleled insight, and in the trenches experience from both Capitol Hill and the White House on a range of high-impact issues that are important to our clients," Flood said in a statement. "We believe that having strong bipartisan depth is critical to achieving results for our clients, and Aaron's proven track record of working with Democrats and Republicans alike to foster key relationships and pass key legislation will be invaluable."

--Editing by Nicole Bleier.