

Crowell & Moring Lands Microsoft Atty For Int'l Trade Group

By **Rose Krebs**

Law360 (June 30, 2025, 12:00 AM EDT) -- Crowell & Moring LLP announced Monday that it has hired Microsoft's assistant general counsel for global trade to bolster its international trade group, including its capacity to handle emerging technologies matters.

Scott Wise joins as a partner in Crowell & Moring's Denver office and as a member of the international trade group, the global firm said.

"Having worked alongside Crowell attorneys for years at Microsoft, I know the quality of the international trade team and their incredible client service in this space," he said in a statement. "When I was considering a return to private practice, it made perfect sense to join Crowell and work with a collaborative and practical group of lawyers to support companies at the forefront of new technologies."



Scott Wise

In an emailed statement to Law360, Wise added that through his work with Crowell & Moring attorneys over several years, he has "gotten to observe how well they merge top class technical expertise with practical advice."

"I didn't expect to reenter private practice, and I think that this is the one opportunity that could have lured me back," he said.

"The trade landscape is becoming increasingly difficult for industry to navigate, with regulators issuing rules that expand the scope of regulated activities — for example, export controls are proliferating and becoming more complex, especially in the emerging technology space, and outbound investment is now subject to regulations," Wise added.

"My goal is to build on Crowell's excellent foundation to bring simple solutions to the complications that this regulatory environment will create," he said. "I think that being located in Denver, where so many emerging technology companies are located, also provides an opportunity to connect with that community."

Wise added that he will use his in-house and private practice experience and the "unique perspective" it has given him "on what it takes to implement legal guidance across complex organizations."

"I think that this skill will become increasingly important as companies react to an increasingly difficult regulatory landscape," he said.

Wise's practice will focus on advising clients about export controls, economic sanctions and investment issues, with a particular focus on emerging technologies, the announcement said. He will also help startup companies develop compliance programs to comply with export regulations, including the International Traffic in Arms Regulations and the Export Administration Regulations, the firm said.

Before joining Crowell & Moring, Wise worked at Microsoft for nearly four years, his LinkedIn profile says. He started as senior counsel in global trade, and in 2023, he started as assistant general counsel in that division, the profile says.

During his time at Microsoft, Wise led a team that was focused on export controls, economic sanctions and outbound investment. He also developed the tech giant's compliance measures relating to regulations that govern the export of new technologies such as artificial intelligence, integrated circuits and chips, and quantum computing, Crowell & Moring said.

Before his in-house stint at Microsoft, Wise worked in private practice at Kelley Drye & Warren LLP for five years and at Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP for two years, his LinkedIn profile says. He was a member of those firms' international trade teams, the announcement said.

Wise earned a law degree from American University's Washington College of Law, a master of laws degree from Georgetown University Law Center, and a bachelor's degree from the University of Oklahoma.

David "Dj" Wolff, co-chair of the firm's international trade group, said in a statement that Wise "brings unique in-house and private practice experience to Crowell at a time when export controls are reshaping global markets and disrupting clients' business plans and supply chains."

"Scott's 'in the room' experience working with key decision makers and export controls and sanctions regulators on behalf [of] one of the world's largest technology companies will immediately bolster our export control practice with a perspective virtually no other outside counsel can offer," he said.

Andrea Surratt, managing partner of Crowell & Moring's Denver office, said in a statement that Wise's hiring will help the firm meet client needs in a market that "is a magnet for companies in the emerging technologies space."

"Scott's arrival allows us to truly meet the moment with support for clients as they seek to grow their footprint and navigate the ever-changing landscape of trade regulations," she said.

--Editing by Adam LoBelia.