

Crowell Launches Public Policy Group

Crowell & Moring wants more influence in the influence business. A six-lawyer, Democratic team from Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman's public policy and political law group starts at the firm today, and Crowell is also bringing its seven-member government relations subsidiary, C&M Capitolink, in house. The subsidiary is combining with the Pillsbury group to form Crowell's new public policy practice.

Chairman **Kent Gardiner** says Crowell has been working all year to expand its "public policy profile," and an increasing number of Middle East-based clients, as well as clients from the environmental, health care, and tax practices, are interested in its lobbying services. Capitolink leaned right, so poaching the Democrats from Pillsbury was part of a push towards bipartisanship. Gardiner says it didn't make sense to merge the Pillsbury lawyers in with the consulting subsidiary, which didn't include any lawyers. Instead, the firm created the new practice area.

The Pillsbury recruits include partners **Peter Robertson**, **Florence Prioleau**, and **Thomas O'Donnell** and senior counsel **Elliott Laws** and **Joseph Trapasso**, all of whom have executive

branch experience. Associate **Kristina Pisanelli** joins, too. The group started at Pillsbury together in 2006 after leaving **Patton Boggs**.

Robertson now co-chairs Crowell's public policy practice with ex-Capitolink head **Patrick Donnelly**. Some clients, including the Consumer Electronics



Association and DuPont, are following Robertson to Crowell. Existing Capitolink clients include DayJet, CropLife America, and ArborGen. Pillsbury spokesman Tom Resau emphasizes that Pillsbury still has a "robust," bipartisan public policy group. —MARISA MCQUILKEN