

Crowell Snags Health & Employment Boutique

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Monday, November 13, 2006 --- Crowell & Moring LLP has added 23 new attorneys to the firm by acquiring a health care and labor and employment boutique, along with three intellectual property partners from another firm.

The acquisition of King Pagano Harrison brings in nine partners, seven associates, one senior counsel and three counsel to Crowell's Washington, D.C. and New York offices.

The group includes King Pagano founding partners Jeffrey W. King, Jeffrey W. Pagano and Keith J. Harrison, and partners Kimberly G. Baldwin, Trina L. Fairley, Christopher Flynn, James E. Kellett, Jeffrey L. Poston and Ira M. Saxe.

The IP addition to the firm includes three partners from the IP law firm Morgan & Finnegan LLP, Bruce D. DeRenzi, Dickerson M. Downing and Andrew M. Riddles. The new partners will join Crowell's two-month-old New York office.

The King Pagano addition stands to boost the firm's Health Care and Labor & Employment groups, adding eight and 12 lawyers to the groups, respectively.

"We have known and respected the Health Care and Labor & Employment litigation capabilities of King Pagano Harrison for many years," said Kent A. Gardiner, Crowell's chairman. "Their significant courtroom experience complements our practice and provides new depth and resources for high-stakes litigation matters."

The boutique firm counts companies such as The Brink's Company, Kaiser Permanente and MedStar Health Inc. as clients.

Crowell's health care group, which ballooned to 34 attorneys with the addition, stands to benefit from King Pagano's litigation experience. The boutique also has worked on creating and implementing HIPAA compliance and conducting fraud and abuse investigations.

Its labor and employment group will grow to 30 lawyers with the acquisition, practicing in both the U.S. and Europe. The group handles the full spectrum of labor and employment work with an emphasis on traditional labor law practice, including union organizing, unfair labor practice litigation and collective bargaining under the National Labor Relations Act and Railway

Labor Act.

King Pagano has also partnered with accounting firms to recover more than \$300 million in underpaid premiums to managed care companies that participate in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, Crowell & Moring said.

“The core strength of our Health Care and Labor & Employment practices has been our ability to successfully litigate high-stakes matters,” King said. “Joining with Crowell & Moring allows us to pair that capability with the firm’s renowned regulatory and strategic counseling. Additionally, we’ll be able to serve clients more broadly by drawing upon the multi-disciplinary counsel of the firm’s wide range of practice groups and locations in California and Europe.”

The Morgan & Finnegan IP attorneys will bolster the firm’s patent practice and add chemical and electrical science capabilities. They have represented DuPont, which is also a Crowell & Moring client.

DeRenzi’s practice focuses on chemical and pharmaceutical patent infringement litigation, Downing specializes in trademark, trade secret violations and related actions, and Riddles brings his practice involving prosecution and litigation of business method patents.

The addition of the attorneys to the firm’s new Manhattan office is a positive sign for the firm, which opened the office two months ago, in mid-Sept., with a focus on intellectual property.

The new IP partners and the King Pagano attorneys going to the New York office will expand Crowell’s New York office to 15 attorneys, the firm said.

Crowell & Moring already secured two prominent partners from rival firms in New York, kicking off an effort to fill its new space in Midtown’s prominent Citigroup building with top talent, according to Gardiner.

The firm said it was in talks with several potential partners in New York back in Sept., and that within a year it hoped to have 10 to 15 partners supported by 20 to 25 associates. In addition to IP, the New York office will focus on antitrust, corporate, litigation, and white-collar crime and securities.

Crowell & Moring has about 300 attorneys spread out among offices in Irvine, Calif., Brussels and London. According to Gardiner, it became clear to the firm in the past year that its clients wanted the firm in New York too.

The new office is anchored by two new partners who were wooed from rival law firms Arent Fox and Dorsey & Whitney LLP.

Janet M. MacLeod, formerly an IP partner Dorsey & Whitney, boasts extensive experience in the pharmaceutical and chemical industries.

Senior trial lawyer William J. McSherry Jr., former partner-in-charge of Arent Fox's New York office and co-chair of their Litigation practice, joined as a partner in Crowell & Moring's Litigation group.

--Additional reporting by Erik Larson