

Crowell & Moring Adds DOJ Environmental Trial Atty In DC

By Alison Knezevich

Law360 (April 12, 2023, 4:23 PM EDT) -- Crowell & Moring LLP has added a longtime U.S. Department of Justice attorney who prosecuted environmental crimes and led investigative teams for the government, the firm announced Wednesday.

Shennie Patel joined the firm's environment and natural resources group last week as senior counsel in Washington, where she will lead complex environmental enforcement defense matters, Crowell & Moring said.

Patel was with the DOJ for more than 20 years, including the last 14 as a trial attorney in the Environmental Crimes Section.

Her previous DOJ roles included working in the National Security Division's Office of Intelligence and in the Civil Rights Division's sections handling special litigation and housing.

Patel told Law360 Pulse on Wednesday that she loved her DOJ job and "thought I was a lifer."

When Crowell & Moring partner Amanda Shafer Berman, also a former DOJ attorney, approached her about joining the firm, she was not initially interested, Patel said. But "the people at Crowell just blew me away."

"It was the people, and hearing about the work that they do," she said.

Thomas Lorenzen, who co-chairs the firm's environment and natural resources group, said that Patel "is one of a handful of attorneys in Washington with senior level experience in the Environmental Crimes Section."

"The key is she knows exactly how prosecutors and agency investigators think, and what information would be relevant to them," he said in a statement. "This will be a benefit to clients seeking to minimize risk as they navigate government investigations."

At the DOJ, Patel prosecuted a range of cases, including the trafficking of endangered species, worker safety violations and international smuggling, the firm said. She is experienced in leading teams of lawyers and investigators through a case.



Shennie Patel

She said she has found the attorneys at Crowell & Moring to be team-oriented.

"I thought to myself, it's not often that an opportunity like this comes across your path, even when you're not looking," she said.

Patel graduated from the University of Houston Law Center.

--Editing by Alyssa Miller.

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