

Crowell & Moring Hires Ex-EPA Deputy Assistant Admin In SF

By **Matt Perez**

Law360 (May 29, 2025, 4:20 PM EDT) -- Crowell & Moring LLP announced on Thursday the hiring of a former deputy assistant administrator from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as senior counsel in the firm's environmental and regulatory enforcement groups in its San Francisco office.

Stacey Geis joins Crowell & Moring following a 25-year career at law firms, government agencies and an advocacy organization. She joins both the firm's environment, energy and natural resources group, and its white collar and regulatory enforcement group.



Stacey Geis

Appointed by former President Joe Biden in January 2023, Geis helped lead the 2,800-person Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance at the EPA and had a hand in managing six offices at its headquarters and 10 regional offices, according to her LinkedIn profile.

"With an anticipated increase in state environmental regulatory and enforcement activity in California and other states in the coming months, we're excited to add Stacey to our team," Daniel Zelenko, chair of the firm's white collar and regulatory enforcement practice, said in a statement Thursday.

At Crowell & Moring, Geis will advise clients on environmental and policy matters, including compliance assistance, corporate governance, and risk and crisis management. She will additionally represent clients in compliance and enforcement issues, such as internal investigations, pre-filing negotiations and litigation.

"Stacey expands both our California and federal environmental bench strength for incident response, investigations, enforcement defense, and litigation, bringing a broad and valuable array of experience from state-level prosecutions to nationwide federal enforcement initiatives," said Kirsten Nathanson, co-chair of the firm's environment, energy, and natural resources group.

Prior to her time at the EPA, Geis spent over eight years at environmental advocacy group Earthjustice, first as the managing attorney of its California regional office, then as vice president of litigation, overseeing more than 400 employees across 15 offices and a budget of \$125 million, according to her LinkedIn profile.

At Earthjustice, Geis helped represent a coalition of environmental organizations challenging the Bureau

of Land Management's move to roll back an Obama-era rule aimed at reducing methane releases from oil and gas operations on federal and Native American lands. The litigation ultimately led to a settlement after a district judge found that the groups, along with the California and New Mexico attorney general's offices, were likely to succeed in their challenge to the agency's actions.

Before she was at Earthjustice, Geis was an assistant U.S. attorney for the Northern District of California, working for the office's environmental enforcement program.

In 2013, she prosecuted Walmart for nationwide hazardous waste and Clean Water Act violations, resulting in a \$100 million criminal plea. She also secured an indictment of Pacific Gas & Electric Co. for violating the federal Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act after the 2010 pipeline explosion in San Bruno, California, which killed eight people and burned down 38 houses. PG&E was fined \$3 million and ordered to complete 10,000 hours of community service.

Geis began her legal career as an associate at Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP, focusing on environmental litigation and land-use planning. She earned her bachelor's degree from Brown University and her law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law.

"I have spent my career ensuring that highly regulated companies are in compliance with the law, in particular environmental and public safety laws," Geis said in the announcement Thursday. "I'm excited to bring my unique perspective to help companies improve compliance and minimize potential risks and liabilities, both before and after issues develop."

Crowell & Moring ranked as the 91st-largest U.S. law firm on last year's Law360 400 list, with around 240 partners among 590 attorneys in the country. The firm runs 11 offices, including locations in Belgium, Qatar, the United Kingdom and China.

--Additional reporting by Rachel Rippetoe, Katie Buehler and Cara Bayles. Editing by Nicole Bleier.
