

Crowell & Moring Opens In Boston With Faber Daeufer Tie-Up

By Tracey Read

Law360 (June 3, 2025, 12:01 AM EDT) -- Crowell & Moring LLP and Faber Daeufer & Itrato PC announced Tuesday they have combined, allowing Crowell & Moring to open an office in Boston that builds on Faber Daeufer's strong presence in the city's life sciences community.

Crowell Life Sciences brings together Faber Daeufer's life sciences-focused venture finance and research and development transactional practice and Crowell & Moring's strengths in healthcare regulatory, government contracting, export controls, data privacy, patent prosecution and healthcare and intellectual property litigation, the firm said in the announcement.

"This is to us a very exciting development and an opportunity to really weave together two outstanding teams," Philip T. Inglima, chair of Crowell & Moring's management board, told Law360 Pulse in an interview.



Philip T. Inglima and Joseph L. Faber
(Courtesy of Crowell & Moring)

"Having the Faber team in New York and San Francisco was terrific, but to have their presence and their prominence in Boston was a great selling point for us," Inglima added. "We had considered a Boston market entry for a while. We did not want to do it with anything less than a market-leading practice. So this was a perfect sync up."

Prior to the combination, Crowell & Moring's life sciences presence was mostly through its intellectual property practitioners, both on the patent prosecution and patent litigation level, Inglima said. Meanwhile, Boston is a life sciences epicenter.

"We've long been serving clients in the New England region," Inglima said. "Now we can do it with a local presence. We also happen to have about five of our lawyers already working from Boston without the benefit of an office location, and others in nearby New England locales. So this is a wonderful opportunity for us to integrate the team in Boston."

He added that Crowell & Moring has had more than a dozen opportunities to work together with the boutique in the last six or seven months, which has been a "great proof of concept."

Faber Daeufer launched in Boston more than 20 years ago with a small team of both lawyers and

contracts specialists who'd worked together in-house at a biopharmaceutical company.

The new Crowell & Moring life sciences group will be led by Gregory J. Ikonen, who is a principal at Faber Daeufer.

"We are excited to join Crowell," Ikonen said in a statement. "Faber's 20-plus year track record as a life sciences focused R&D transactional practice has combined deep technical expertise in complex licensing and development agreements with pragmatic counsel based on experience working inside legal, business and leadership teams at mature companies in this sector."

As Crowell Life Sciences, the team will now be able to leverage adjacent capabilities that have become increasingly critical to shaping these transactions, including U.S. and EU regulations, export controls, international trade, government contracting and global patent prosecution, Ikonen added.

The Faber Daeufer team consists of former in-house lawyers and business executives in biopharma, private fund professionals, and contract specialists from pharmaceutical companies and contract research organizations.

Joseph L. Faber, founder and managing principal of the boutique, told Law360 Pulse in an interview that the 50-member Faber Daeufer team includes nearly 30 lawyers, plus seven or eight contract specialists — some with law degrees — as well as paralegals and other professional staff.

The boutique firm had been exclusively focused on providing corporate and transactional counsel to clients in the life sciences. It has provided legal and business counsel to more than 2,500 clients. About half of those clients had been in the Boston area, including biotech companies, venture capital firms, academic research institutions and individual scientists and entrepreneurs, Faber said.

He added that firm leadership had been looking to combine with someone for a while after reevaluating what their clients would need in the next five or 10 years. The boutique's clients had been struggling with several trends in the life sciences industry lately, such as increased cross-border engagement with investors and business and scientific partners, and the increased complexity of designing research and development and market strategies in a rapidly changing regulatory and public policy environment.

"Crowell's culture has been a wonderful fit for us," Faber said.

Faber noted the response over the past few days to the news from the boutique's clients has been very gratifying.

"Our service model, but with different and additional expertise, is something that has really resonated," Faber said.

The No. 1 goal is strong integration of the teams in Boston and introducing them to the rest of the Crowell & Moring footprint, Inglima said. There are also plans for growth in that city, he added.

"We'll continue to look for ways to harmonize what we're doing in Boston with what we do really well elsewhere," Inglima said. "Healthcare, government contracts, white collar — those are high on the list of what might be next to round out the team in Boston. But of course, it has a very strong identity and core team right now, so there's no urgency."

After the combination, Washington, D.C.-headquartered Crowell & Moring now has 688 attorneys in 12 offices, a firm spokesperson said.

--Editing by Lakshna Mehta.

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