

Ex-DaVita IKC General Counsel Joins Crowell & Moring

By Michele Gorman

Law360 (April 3, 2024, 2:47 PM EDT) -- A former group general counsel and longtime employee at the integrated care subsidiary of DaVita Inc. is transitioning into private practice as a partner in Crowell & Moring's healthcare group, the law firm said Wednesday.

Stephen Bentfield, who for the past 11 years has led legal for DaVita Integrated Kidney Care, will focus his practice on fraud and abuse matters, managed care, and organizational compliance programs and policies, according to the announcement. He is based in Denver.

"I was drawn to Crowell & Moring because of its deep bench and respected reputation," Bentfield told Law360 Pulse on Wednesday. "I decided to return to private practice now given my long-standing relationship with the firm as a former Crowell client, and the benefit we can bring to our clients."

He acknowledged that the healthcare industry is undergoing "a significant transformation in the shift towards quality and population health management, and away from outdated fee for service models."

"I am excited to bring over a decade of experience structuring the operations, infrastructure, and arrangements of a large, sophisticated value-based care business to a broader set of health care clients that can further quality, cost, and population health goals," he said.

A graduate of Suffolk University Law School, Bentfield has spent time in both private practice and in-house roles throughout his career. Previously, he worked for almost a decade in private practice, first as a contract attorney for a year at Epstein Becker & Green PC, his LinkedIn profile shows.

From 2004 until 2013, he was an attorney at Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo PC.

For close to five and a half years, Bentfield was group general counsel at Vively Health, which at the time was a subsidiary of dialysis giant DaVita. In 2013, he became assistant general counsel at DaVita Integrated Kidney Care. Almost two years later, he took on his most recent role there as vice president and group general counsel, his profile shows.

"His in-house experience at DaVita gives Stephen a unique perspective into the nuanced art of balancing business objectives with legal and regulatory risk mitigation," Troy Barsky, co-chair of Crowell & Moring's healthcare group, said in a statement. "This insight will resonate with healthcare clients of all



Stephen Bentfield

sizes, further enhancing Crowell's regulatory and transactional capabilities."

Bentfield is the most recent addition to the firm's healthcare group. In January, Crowell & Moring LLP brought on a trio of Moses & Singer LLP attorneys. Partners Linda Malek and Jason Johnson and senior counsel Blaze Waleski are based in the New York City office, which this year moved into a larger space in Manhattan's Hudson Yards neighborhood.

--Additional reporting by Tracey Read. Editing by Patrick Reagan.

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