

Crowell & Moring Int'l Names Global Life Sciences Head

By Jack Rodgers

Law360 (March 5, 2024, 12:32 AM EST) -- Crowell & Moring International LLC has hired a new chairman of its global life sciences group, who joins with over three decades of experience working to expand market access for healthcare, life sciences and medical device clients, the firm announced Tuesday.

Joseph Damond is the new chair of the global life sciences team at Crowell & Moring International, the public relations division of the firm. He'll help clients in the healthcare industry advance a range of policy initiatives. He joins Crowell & Moring International from Edelman Global Advisory, where he worked for a little over a year as the global chairman of health policy.



Joseph Damond

Damond's work with Crowell & Moring will include helping clients understand the global policy and regulatory landscape related to healthcare and other matters, while additionally focusing his work on international trade and investment challenges to healthcare products. Damond works with a range of other issues facing multinational companies, the firm said.

In an interview with Law360 Pulse, Damond said he was a client of Crowell & Moring's while he served as deputy vice president for international affairs for the trade group Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, and while he was vice president of international government relations for Pfizer.

At Pfizer, Damond worked to manage international trade and commercial matters, like leading the industry's efforts to bolster access to care and medical devices, Crowell & Moring said. He did similar work at the pharma group, helping lead Asia and global market access programs, the firm said.

Damond told Law360 Pulse that he'd worked previously with Geralyn Ritter, Crowell & Moring's president and CEO, who stepped into the role last month after working as executive vice president of corporate affairs, sustainability and environmental, social and governance at Organon, a global healthcare company that spun out of Merck & Co. Inc. three years ago.

In a way, Damond said, joining Crowell & Moring was a homecoming, affording him the opportunity to work with people whom he'd known for years.

Damond previously worked in a number of public service and senior roles focused on healthcare and other issues.

He was the deputy chief policy officer and executive vice president for international affairs at the Biotechnology Innovation Organization, he said, where he helped to develop the industry association's global policy on healthcare, economic trade and foreign government relations.

Damond also worked as deputy assistant U.S. trade representative for Asia and the Pacific. His other work in that role included serving as a special economic assistant to the trade representative, Crowell & Moring said.

Damond told Law360 Pulse he'd always wanted to work in public service, studying economics and public policy while earning his master's in public administration at Princeton University after studying at Georgetown's School of Foreign Service.

Damond said his first career position was with the U.S. Department of Commerce, and he moved shortly thereafter to the trade representative's office.

"I did a lot of things during those years, some of it did involve the pharma sector but I would say most of it probably didn't," Damond said. "I was familiar with the pharma sector's intellectual property rights issues, but a lot of the agreements I did when I was at USTR, like the agreement to normalize trade with Vietnam, were much broader in scope than just that one sector."

Damond said that after leaving public service, his next opportunity at the pharma trade group was focused on Asia Pacific issues. Regulatory barriers blocked access to markets in that region for American and international companies.

"While I started out in Asia Pacific, a lot of these important issues about market access and regulatory barriers, intellectual property rights barriers, I learned a lot more about them and took on a lot more responsibility in regions outside of Asia Pacific, particularly Europe, which is an important market for production and for consumption of medicines and new technologies," he said.

That work continued at Pfizer, Damond said, where his focus included international trade. He lauded the company as having "always been as interested in helping shape the policy environment as it has been simply responding to it."

Looking to the future, Damond said, the industry is expected to continue examining the effects of COVID-19, which "has brought into relief a lot of big global issues" concerning technology and access.

"But now as we're seeing, healthcare systems everywhere are stretched and resources are stretched," he said. "So, while there's a very healthy supply side for new products, the demand side or the ability to pay for some of these new technologies is going to be difficult and governments are going to get involved in that, and that's kind of what I see as some of the big challenges going forward, and I'm excited to work on those with companies."

Ritter said in a statement Tuesday that she was looking forward to Damond's contributions to the group.

"Joe brings a wealth of experience to Crowell & Moring and our clients. He has truly done it all and will be a key architect of our growth strategy," Ritter said. "Joe's arrival is a signal of things to come and our commitment to deliver results for our clients."

--Additional reporting by Tracey Read. Editing by Karin Roberts.

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