



Crowell & Moring Adds 2 Partners As M&A Work Grows

By **Hilary Russ**

Law360, New York (May 18, 2011, 2:14 PM ET) -- Crowell & Moring LLP said Monday that it had snared partners from Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP and Nixon Peabody LLP for its corporate practices on both coasts in response to an increasing amount of deal work.

In a boost to its middle-markets practice in particular, the firm hired Katten Muchin's Paul J. Pollock for its New York office and Jeffrey C. Selman of Nixon Peabody for its San Francisco office.

"Our growth is a reflection that the deal market is heating up, and Paul and Jeff will play an important role in helping our clients take advantage of new opportunities," said James R. Stuart, chair of Crowell & Moring's corporate group, in a statement.

"Paul and Jeff are seasoned partners with an impressive wealth of experience in the key markets of New York and San Francisco," he said. "Our group has grown significantly in recent years, and our new additions build on the incredible book of experience we've amassed leading middle-market deals for the most prestigious and most promising businesses."

It's easy to see how adding both men could give the firm an even stronger middle-markets practice. Pollock focuses on middle-market private equity, mergers and acquisitions and corporate finance, while Selman, a transactional attorney, advises middle-market and emerging public and private companies and investors in the technology and life sciences sectors.

Pollock's clients — primarily private equity funds, venture and venture-backed corporations, and senior and subordinated lenders — hail from a wide range of industries, including automotive, high-tech, health care technology, publishing, and media and entertainment.

He has also represented both buyers and sellers in mergers and acquisitions, and foreign companies looking to break into the U.S. market or enter transactions with stateside companies, according to the firm.

In public offerings, he has represented underwriters, just as he has advised placement agents in private placements. And he has counseled foreign issuers on securities offerings under the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission Regulation S, the firm said.

Pollack began at the firm on April 18, and since then he has represented New Jersey-based projectiondesign LLC, a high-performance projector distributor, in connection with the sale of all the company's equity.

His other current clients include Miami-based Italkitchen International Inc., which makes custom kitchens for hotel and apartment developers, as well as Monomoy Capital Partners LP on its acquisition of Steel Parts Manufacturing Inc., a manufacturer of transmission clutch plates based in Indiana.

Pollock said he was excited to join Crowell & Moring because it would allow him to help his clients navigate the reemergence of mergers and acquisitions activity.

"There's a real change in the deal universe," Pollock said. "After a tough few years, companies, lenders, and nontraditional lenders are back in business."

Pollack has also done distressed debt work for lenders, buyers and sellers in workouts and refinancings, both in and out of bankruptcies, including asset sales, 363 sales, and leveraged and nonleveraged recapitalizations.

Selman's expertise is in helping small to mid-cap public and emerging private technology and life sciences companies to grow through corporate finance, securities work, M&A and other strategic transactions — including tender offers, asset and stock sales for both buyers and sellers, cross-border transactions, and joint ventures.

He also helps the companies and their investors on formation, equity and debt financing, licensing, restructurings, board and management issues, and general corporate matters, the firm said.

For public companies, he works on regulatory compliance with the SEC and national exchanges, as well as on public offerings and private investment in public equity transactions.

Selman has clients in a number of areas, including technology, software, the Internet, social networking, mobile device applications, media, interactive gaming and entertainment, semiconductors, network equipment, biotech, medical devices, geothermal, solar, agbio, battery and energy storage.

He has represented CerRX Inc., a therapeutic company devoted to intermediate-stage cancer drug development, as well as Pittsburgh-based Bossa Nova Robotics, an advanced robotics developer.

Selman said Crowell & Moring was a dynamic and entrepreneurial firm and that he was pleased to be joining in California, where the firm has experienced significant recent growth.

"Crowell & Moring offers broad-based experience and an expansive network of potential finance and strategic partners to clients who are looking for a firm that can help them achieve their business goals," he said.

--Editing by Lisa Uhlman.

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