



## **Crowell & Moring Snags Cravath Environmental Partner**

**By Kelly Rizzetta**

*Law360, New York (January 12, 2012, 8:21 PM ET)* -- Crowell & Moring LLP has bolstered its New York office with the addition of a former Cravath Swaine & Moore LLP attorney who has provided environmental counsel on a range of securities disclosures and mergers and acquisitions, the firm announced Tuesday.

Jeffrey A. Smith will be joining the firm as a partner in its environment and natural resources and corporate groups.

Crowell & Moring lured Smith from Cravath, where he was a partner and head of the firm's environmental law group, as well as the former managing partner of administration. Prior to Smith's 20 years with Cravath, he was a partner at Clark Ladner Fortenbaugh & Young, which has since dissolved.

Smith's move comes at an opportune time for both the attorney and the relatively young firm, Smith told Law360 on Thursday.

Environmental law is increasingly becoming a dominant, far-reaching practice area, with innumerable moving parts that touch on just about every industry on the planet, Smith said. Attorneys like Smith who have "expertise in the nuances of environmental law," are needed to guide businesses through that maze, according to the new Crowell & Moring partner.

"No matter what industry you're in, what business you're doing, issues that used to be exclusively environmental — where you could put a label on them, and put them in a corner and call them [environmental] — have really become increasingly mainstream," Smith said.

From the general public to shareholders to rival businesses, no company can have any secrets when it comes to its projects' impact on the environment or its compliance — or lack thereof — with environmental regulations.

"Everyone wants to understand what your position is" on environmental issues, Smith said.

Smith specializes in securities disclosure issues stemming from environmental regulatory law, having advised multinational corporations and mid-market companies on a wide range of mergers and acquisitions, financings, joint ventures and other transactions. He also regularly provides environmental counsel on corporate governance, disclosure requirements under Securities and Exchange Commission regulations, voluntary environmental reporting, shareholder communications, and environmental litigation.

His multifaceted practice area has gotten him involved in “mergers and acquisitions in every shape and size and color,” advising lenders on the environmental aspects of potential project financing arrangements, and “hundreds and hundreds of securities fields.” Every project required “sophisticated, strategic management of complex environmental problems [with] a lot of strategic thinking on the 10,000-foot level,” he said.

That wealth of experience is what made Smith attractive to Crowell & Moring, according to Joseph A. Adams, co-managing partner of Crowell & Moring's New York office.

"Jeff is widely respected for his ability to assess complex environmental concerns and new regulations and apply them to real market scenarios," said Adams, who is also a member of the firm's corporate group. "His work advising international corporations on environmental matters and his notable experience in the New York deal market are tremendous assets to our clients."

Smith and his new firm make for a perfect combination of skill, innovation and experience, the attorney said.

“One of the things that's interesting about me and Crowell is, [the firm] gives me a chance to overlay a lot of craft deal experience and financial expertise on top of what is a very deep and dynamic environmental practice,” Smith said.

A spirit of entrepreneurship drew Smith to the 39-year-old firm, the partner said.

“Crowell's comparative youth comes with a great deal of flexibility and dynamism,” Smith said, commending the firm for its “tremendous mix of forces and tremendous mix of skills.”

Smith has testified before the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance and Investment regarding potential SEC requirements for disclosure related to climate change. Additionally, he served as the first chairman of the American Bar Association's Special Committee on Environmental Disclosure.

--Editing by Kat Laskowski.