

Crowell & Moring Adds Former Shulman Rogers Partner

By **Michael Macagnone**

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Crowell & Moring LLP has added fresh blood to its government contracts practice with the former head of Shulman Rogers Gandal Pordy & Ecker PA's government contracts practice, who also served as a senior official in the Air Force's general counsel office, the firm announced on Monday.

Newly christened Crowell & Moring partner David Robbins specialized in suspensions and debarment, having served as acting suspending and debarment official, acting deputy general counsel for contracts and director of the Air Force Office of Procurement Fraud Remedies at the Air Force, according to a firm announcement. Robbins said that he was "a little humbled," to be joining the more than 50 attorneys in the government contracts group.



David Robbins

"Knowing that I am going to have to be on my toes every day is just exhilarating," Robbins said, before emphasizing how he thinks he'll contribute his expertise from his time at the Air Force to the team at Crowell & Moring. "I think I fit right in, play an important role and bring a key government credential to the team."

Robbins said that he hopes to add his expertise in a broad swath of fraud, false claims, suspension and debarment proceedings, advising the firm's clientele on an increasing criminalization of government contract enforcement.

"The trends that I see are a continuation of a multiyear march of criminalization and punishment of what in many other contexts — a business context, for example — would simply be a business mistake," Robbins said.

Daniel Forman, one co-chair, himself among Law360's 2015 Government Contracts MVPs, emphasized the firm's team approach to its government contracts practice in a statement, especially with the addition of Robbins' suspension and debarment expertise.

"In an era of increasing investigation and prosecution risk for government contractors and grant recipients, David's understanding of the inner workings of the government's procurement fraud operations, including suspension and debarment offices, will be a valuable addition to our existing team both for clients facing investigations and for those in need of a problem solver who can tell them what is

on the horizon and how best to manage their business challenges,” Forman said.

Robbins said that he hopes to add his own expertise to that of the group’s other co-chair, Angela Styles, as well as partner Peter Eyre in suspension and debarment practice. Emphasizing the team nature and deep bench of the firm’s practice, Robbins said that he has worked with Crowell & Moring attorneys both as a regulator and in private practice and always admired the firm’s approach.

“You want to work with people who share the same viewpoint and share the same strategy,” he said.

Robbins said that he intends to add his years of work with the Air Force’s Office of General Counsel and deep understanding of the government’s approach to regulation to help advise clients on a number of trends in the industry, from False Claims Act defense to procurement fraud remedies and suspension and debarment proceedings.

Robbins is the co-chair of the American Bar Association’s Ethics, Compliance and Professional Responsibility Committee and a member of the executive committee of the National Contract Management Association, Washington, D.C., Chapter. He earned his BA from Yale University and received his JD and MBA from the University of Maryland.

--Editing by Stephen Berg.

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