

## International Trade Group Of The Year: Crowell & Moring

By **Fola Akinnibi**

*Law360, New York (January 30, 2017, 1:57 PM EST)* -- Crowell & Moring LLP's international trade group continued to shore up its offerings in its core areas of customs, trade remedy and export controls and sanctions work in 2016, landing it a spot on Law360's Practice Groups of the Year list for the second year in a row.

The group, led by partner Jeff Snyder, has about 25 lawyers in New York, Washington, D.C., and Brussels, and it's a sort of one-stop shop for companies looking to sort out any trade issues, Snyder said. When he began at the firm in 2002, its international trade group consisted of only three lawyers but it has since added depth in every one of the core areas.

"A lot of trade groups tend to be very strong in one of these [areas], and we've consistently invested in making each one of these a world-class, strong competitor, rather than having dabblers who cut across lines," Snyder said. "The idea, from 2002, has been to build each one of these into a strong practice."



Since its last inclusion on the list, Crowell & Moring has seen the biggest change in its export controls and anti-money laundering work. That is mostly thanks to its hire, in January, of Carlton Greene, a former top attorney at the U.S. Department of the Treasury's primary anti-money laundering agency, Snyder said.

Greene, formerly of the Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, joined Crowell & Moring to advise corporate clients on compliance with economic sanctions, government investigations and anti-money laundering regulations, including the Bank Secrecy Act.

The firm also scored some big wins in 2016 on the litigation side of things.

Crowell & Moring's trade remedies practice scored one in its defense of Russian steel producer JSC Severstal in an investigation focused on cold-rolled steel imports, which was also the first instance of a Russian producer being subject to a countervailing duty investigation.

Partner Dan Cannistra was able to beat back the steel industry's case to secure a de minimis CVD margin for Severstal, which meant that no duties would be put in place. Still, the company was tagged with a 13 percent anti-dumping duty after the U.S. Department of Commerce determined that it was selling its products at unfairly low prices.

But when the case returned to the U.S. International Trade Commission, Cannistra and his colleagues were able to show that the Russian imports were not hampering domestic producers, earning a negative injury determination and removing Russia from the probe entirely. The case, being one of first impression, was a “novel effort,” Snyder said.

The firm also represented Meridian Products LLC in its fight at the U.S. Court of International Trade over the scope of anti-dumping and countervailing duty orders on Chinese aluminum extrusions.

“This extrusions case involving aluminum extrusions from China is one of the cases that has really been a nightmare both for the agency and for the trade community,” Snyder said. “The petitioner had defined the case to be so broad and it was very unclear which [products] were in and which were out and the government had trouble trying to manage the case.”

Ultimately, a decision in July found that the Department of Commerce had rightly decided that the handles, referred to as “type B handles,” were not an “extrusion” as defined in the duty orders. That excluded Meridian’s products from the order and additional duties, which would have been in excess of 200 percent.

“What the Meridian case represents is really sort of holding the government to account for how it is implementing these cases,” Snyder said. “There has to be a rational definition or a rational identification of the scope.”

--Additional reporting by Alex Lawson and Rick Archer. Editing by Stephen Berg.