

Crowell & Moring Adds Greenberg Traurig Int'l Disputes Pro

By **Shayna Posses**

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Crowell & Moring LLP has nabbed a former Greenberg Traurig LLP shareholder to bolster its international dispute resolution practice in Washington, D.C., with his focus on helping foreign sovereigns and state-owned entities navigate international litigation and arbitration, as well as on advising clients about trade-related concerns.

David Baron joins as a partner after more than two decades helping clients with their international dispute resolution and public international law needs, bringing expertise in dealing with everything from maritime boundary disputes to international trade regulations, the firm announced Wednesday.



David Baron

“Crowell & Moring’s international dispute resolution practice is among the most respected in the industry, and the firm will provide a broader platform for my practice and my clients,” Baron said in a Friday email to Law360.

The attorney added, “I expect to be able to better serve my existing clients, work with Crowell’s already substantial existing client base, and leverage Crowell’s platform to further expand my practice and the firm’s capabilities in the [international dispute resolution] space.”

The move is also a sort of homecoming for Baron, who worked at Crowell & Moring as a temporary legal secretary during the summer after his first year of law school.

Baron's interest in international disputes work dates back to his first semester of college in 1989, when the Berlin Wall came down. His world politics professor came into class and tossed their textbook into the trash, and from then on, it seemed that the world had a new paradigm and new opportunities to move forward so long as people could clean up the problems of the past, Baron said.

“This is also true with international disputes work and in particular, international investment disputes,” the attorney said. “I view every dispute as an opportunity to address and resolve prior difficulties and to improve opportunities and conditions for future investments going forward.”

During his career, Baron has gained extensive international dispute experience in both foreign and domestic forums. The attorney has handled matters before the International Court of Justice and

international arbitral tribunals, but has also tackled disputes that raise international issues in American federal and appellate courts, the firm said.

Baron's expertise also extends to trade policy, transactions and regulatory concerns, with the attorney regularly advising clients on international trade regulations, including policies surrounding economic sanctions and foreign corrupt practices, according to Crowell & Moring.

Sanctions law, particularly U.S. sanctions law and international compliance, has been one of Baron's specialties for more than 20 years, the attorney said. When he graduated law school, he was told that sanctions law was something public international lawyers should know, and he has found it very rewarding to help clients protect themselves and address challenging sanctions issues, Baron noted.

In addition, Baron has a particular focus on Belarus and serves as the chairman of the Belarus-U.S. Business Council, building on the almost 15 years he has spent representing some of the country's largest state-owned enterprises in international disputes before federal courts and international arbitral tribunals, he said.

On top of his work handling business, trade and investment matters, Baron is known for his human rights efforts, including playing a key role in drafting the complaint in litigation for Kosovar-Albanian refugees who were the victims of genocide and aiding in proceedings on behalf of Holocaust victims, according to the firm.

Baron told Law360 that the chance to work with excellent clients all over the world and make a difference in small and large ways is what he enjoys most about his practice area.

"International disputes by their nature always involve multiple degrees of complexity; and to one degree or another, they cross barriers of geography, language, legal systems and business practices," he said. "Working with clients to help them resolve such complicated issues as a lawyer here in Washington, D.C., is very rewarding."

Before coming to Crowell & Moring, Baron was a member of Greenberg Traurig's global trade and investment practice. He previously served as a partner at McDermott Will & Emery LLP, according to Crowell & Moring.

The attorney received his bachelor's degree from American University in 1993 and his law degree from The George Washington University Law School in 1996.

--Editing by Kelly Duncan.