

## Crowell & Moring Adds Ex-Wiley Rein Gov't Contracts Atty

By **Dorothy Atkins**

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Crowell & Moring LLP has hired a Wiley Rein LLP government contracts attorney with more than 15 years of experience representing aerospace, defense, professional services, health care and information technology companies in all aspects of federal government procurement, the firm recently announced.

Nicole J. Owren-Wiest is joining the firm's Washington, D.C., office as partner in its government contracts group, where she'll focus her practice on cost matters, data and intellectual property rights and investigations, the firm said in a statement Monday. Owren-Wiest said she decided to move to Crowell & Moring because its government contracts group is among the most distinguished in the industry.



Nicole Owren-  
Wiest

"The firm provides a broad platform to serve clients and solve their most challenging issues," she said in a statement. "I am thrilled to be here and to be working with the firm's talented lawyers to serve existing clients and support new ones."

Owren-Wiest has built her practice helping contractors prepare claims and terminate contracts. She's also litigated contract disputes and defended clients in investigations and audits performed by the U.S. Department of Justice and inspector general. Additionally, she's handled bid protests before the U.S. Government Accountability Office and the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, according to Crowell & Moring.

Some of her clients include Supreme Foodservice GmbH, which she represented in a series of appeals related to Supreme's contracts to provide food, water and other supplies to American troops in Afghanistan, according to her profile on the Crowell & Moring website. The contract claims at issue were valued at \$11 billion, the site says. She also successfully defended one of the largest defense contractors in a qui tam action alleging defective pricing, and she served as co-counsel in a successful protest and ultimate award of a \$35 billion Air Force tanker contract.

Before joining Wiley Rein, Owren-Wiest served as corporate counsel at The Boeing Co. and as an associate at Perkins Coie LLP. She has a law degree from Willamette University College of Law and an undergraduate degree from Minnesota State University.

Peter Eyre, co-chair of the firm's government contracts group, said Monday that Owren-Wiest has

successfully represented some of the largest government contractors in the world and the breadth of her practice makes her a great fit for the firm.

Daniel R. Forman, co-chair of the firm's government contracts group, added there's a large demand for attorneys in cost matters and intellectual property issues and Owren-Wiest fortifies the firm's capabilities within the group.

The firm's government contracts group has approximately 60 lawyers, making it one of the largest government contracts practices in the country, according to the firm. Overall, Crowell & Moring has approximately 500 lawyers practicing in offices in Washington, D.C., New York, California, London, U.K. and Brussels.

--Editing by Orlando Lorenzo.