

## Crowell & Moring Adds Ex-DOJ Gov't Contracts Trial Atty

By Annie Pancak

*Law360 (February 22, 2018, 7:17 PM EST)* -- A former Covington & Burling LLP and U.S. Department of Justice attorney, who has successfully defended a \$1 billion contract on behalf of PAE Government Services Inc. before the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, has joined Crowell & Moring LLP's government contracts group.

Anuj Vohra started as a partner in the firm's Washington, D.C., office on Feb. 20. He spent the last 5½ years at Covington, where he was special counsel, after working at the DOJ for almost six years. At Crowell & Moring, Vohra said he will focus on litigation in the Court of Federal Claims, including bid protests, breach of contract suits and recovery actions.



Anuj Vohra

He said he chose to join Crowell & Moring after it left an impression on him early in his career. One of the two bid protests he lost while at the DOJ was against Crowell & Moring.

"[Crowell & Moring] did a terrific job," he told Law360. "I was very impressed with them. Being at DOJ, you see a lot of firms both in town and nationally come through [the Court of Federal Claims] ... There were a handful of firms that always stood out to me, and Crowell was one of them."

While at the DOJ, Vohra worked as a trial attorney in the department's commercial litigation branch. He defended the U.S. in procurement protests and breach of contract actions, including successfully defending a bid protest of a \$12 billion U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' award for IT support services in the Court of Federal Claims.

"I'm confident that I'm a far better litigator for those years I was at DOJ," Vohra said.

After working at the DOJ, he joined Covington as an associate. Vohra said the greatest difference between working for government and in private practice was being on a team rather than on his own.

In 2013, he was on a Covington team that defended PAE in a \$1 billion U.S. Department of State contract challenge by DynCorp International LLC, KBR Services Inc. and Fluor Corp.

The contract award for embassy support services in Iraq was first challenged at the Government Accountability Office and then at the U.S. Court of Federal Claims after KBR and DynCorp sued the State Department for continuing with the contract and overriding the automatic stay that GAO protests

normally grant. Ultimately, the GAO denied the protest, and the Court of Federal Claims ruled in favor of the State Department and PAE.

Vohra said the case was important to his career because it was the first large bid protest he was involved in after leaving the Department of Justice for private practice.

“It was a real opportunity to get my bearings and to work not just against one but three other prominent law firms in town ... and to get a better understanding of what private practice, and specifically the GAO bid protest practice, looks and feels like when you’re no longer with the government,” he said.

More recently while at Covington, Vohra said his practice has also included internal investigations, compliance reviews and government-facing investigations for contractors. He declined to mention clients.

Earlier in his career, Vohra was assistant corporation counsel for Chicago’s law department for three years after law school.

He earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Michigan in 2000 and his law degree from the University of Illinois College of Law in 2003.

--Editing by Adam LoBelia.