

## Crowell & Moring Hires Banking Litigation Partner In London

By Joanne Faulkner

*Law360, London (January 8, 2020, 5:29 PM GMT)* -- Crowell & Moring has hired a banking litigation attorney with expertise in worldwide fraud investigations to boost its cross-border disputes practices, the firm said Wednesday.

Nicola Phillips, who joined Crowell & Moring LLP on Jan. 8, gained experience at the commercial and civil courts. She has moved from Squire Patton Boggs LLP, where she spent 12 years, and joins other lawyers who have moved from the rival firm.

Phillips will team up with the international dispute resolution group, bolstering the firm's ability to advise international clients on commercial and civil litigation matters and large compliance investigations, Crowell & Moring said.

Phillips, who has experience in High Court litigation, says she has acted for regulators and large financial institutions facing government enforcement inquiries and handles cross-border investigations for clients in Europe and the Middle East. She has also overseen complex banking and investment disputes and claims on guarantees, indemnities and warranties.

She said in an interview with Law360 that, on the regulatory side, she has instructed on investigations involving sanctions breaches and compliance with anti-money laundering rules, while the commercial side has focused on quick-moving fraud cases. Her other practice areas include asset-based lending, trade finance, insurance and employment-related disputes.

Phillips, who earned her law degree at the University of Kent, said that Crowell has made a big investment in London "to regenerate the disputes practice here," adding, "There's a big need for it. U.S. clients need to be more international."

The London team is managed by financial litigator Robert Weekes — who was poached from Squire Patton in January 2019 — to spearhead growth in its global litigation, corporate and regulatory practices. Weekes described Crowell's expansion push as a "new dawn."

Weekes said that Phillips' work with banks, asset-based lenders and other financial institutions will help the law firm grow.



Nicola Phillips

"I am absolutely delighted that Nicola is joining our team. Her expertise and experience knit together a number of the firm's focus areas, from fraud investigations and asset recovery actions to contractual disputes and professional negligence," Weekes said.

The arrival of Phillips marks a wave of new partners joining Crowell & Moring's London office as the firm pushes into the U.K. market. As well as Weekes, five new partners have jumped ship from Squire Patton Boggs.

Robin Baillie, Paul Muscutt, Andrew Knight, Laurence Winston and Cathryn Williams, who specialize in restructuring, insolvency and infrastructure deals, have all made the jump.

--Editing by Tom Mudd.