

Crowell & Moring Nabs Four New Partners Amid Doha Launch

By Emma Whitford

Law360 (September 4, 2020, 3:37 PM EDT) -- Crowell & Moring LLP is welcoming four new partners as the international law firm expands its practice with a new office in the Qatari capital of Doha, according to a press release.

Robert Hager, Charbel Maakaron, Michael Guiffre and Meagan Bachman are all joining Crowell & Moring from Squire Patton Boggs, along with eight other lawyers from the firm. The Qatar-focused group specializes in aviation and has been representing the Qatari government for 15 years in the development of the Hamad International Airport.

Three partners will be based in Washington, D.C., and Maakaron will serve as managing partner in the new Doha office overseeing the other eight hires, the firm said.

"We are very pleased that this well-established and highly-respected group will be joining the firm," Crowell & Moring chair Philip T. Inglima said in a statement.

"We see Qatar as a strong market for one of our strategic growth priorities, which is the expansion of our global infrastructure practice, building on the strengths of our government contracts, international dispute resolution, project development, and regulatory experience," Inglima added.

Robert Weekes, managing partner of Crowell & Moring's London office, added that he looks forward to working with the team on "complex litigation and arbitration matters," as arbitration pertaining to the Qatar airport is already underway in London.

Hager leads the new team, according to the release, having served as managing partner of Squire Patton Boggs' Doha office for six years starting in 2006. His focus areas include transactions and disputes involving infrastructure, aviation, construction, and technology. Hager studied law at Georgetown University Law Center.

Crowell & Moring's "transactional, regulatory, and disputes capabilities will greatly benefit our clients as they pursue future opportunities and investments worldwide, as well as navigate the controversy matters that may develop," Hager said in a statement.

Maakaron has been based in Qatar for more than a decade where he has advised government officials in



Robert Hager



Charbel Maakaron



Michael Guiffre



Meagan Bachman

addition to working with corporate clients, according to the firm.

Guiffré and Bachman bring arbitration experience, the firm said. Bachman has represented clients before the International Chamber of Commerce International Court of Arbitration and the International Centre for Dispute Resolution, and specializes in disputes involving large infrastructure projects.

Guiffré previously served for six years as a lawyer in the U.S. Army, managing contract litigation and fraud investigations in the Office of the Chief Trial Attorney.

--Editing by Peter Rozovsky.