

Crowell & Moring Joining Up With Kibbe & Orbe

By **Steven Lerner**

Law360 (March 18, 2021, 2:46 PM EDT) -- International law firm Crowell & Moring LLP is making inroads in the financial services sector by combining with boutique firm Kibbe & Orbe LLP, the firm announced Thursday.

The transaction is expected to close in April and add 24 attorneys to Crowell & Moring offices in three cities.

Jennifer Grady, Kibbe & Orbe managing partner and chair of the firm's executive committee, will be part of Crowell & Moring's New York office.

"The legal needs of our clients are evolving, particularly as a result of the growing complexity of investment strategies and structures, and the rapid adoption of new technologies developed for the financial markets," Grady said in a statement. "We believe that Crowell & Moring offers the ideal platform with its broad spectrum of complementary practices, government-facing experience, and financial services industry knowledge."

Founding partners Jonathan Kibbe and William Orbe are also heading to the New York office, as well as partners Scott C. Budlong, Paul B. Haskel, Timothy Lin, Julia Lu, Richard Lee, Gregory Gennady Plotko and Kevin Rubinstein.

"Kibbe & Orbe has a core team of distressed debt and claims trading lawyers that is one of the most experienced in the world," Glen McGorty, managing partner of the New York office, said in a statement.

Andrew M. Martin, the managing partner of Kibbe & Orbe's London office, is shifting to Crowell & Moring's London office along with partner Matthew Hughes.

"Joining forces will result in more comprehensive service offerings for clients and will even further enhance our excellent collaboration with our colleagues in New York and D.C.," Robert Weekes, managing partner of the London office, said in a statement.

Founding partner Michael D. Mann will join Crowell & Moring's Washington office.

While law firm combinations in the U.S. reached a near-decade low of 61 in 2020, this merger suggests there may be more in store for 2021.

"We have been focused on strategically expanding our financial services industry practice. Kibbe & Orbe is recognized for its excellence and innovation by sophisticated blue-chip clients in the global financial markets, so adding these superb lawyers to our team is an extraordinary opportunity," Philip T. Inglima, chair of Crowell & Moring, said in a statement.

--Additional reporting by Aebra Coe. Editing by Brian Baresch.

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