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PERSPECTIVE

Crowell & Moring to merge with IP boutique Brinks Gilson Lione

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Crowell & Moring LLP and Chicago based boutique Brinks Gilson Lione announced a merger Thursday, saying it will create one of the largest intellectual property practices in the nation.

Crowell, based in Washington, D.C., has expanded on both U.S. coasts, in Europe and Asia since its launch 42 years ago. According to chair Philip T. Inghima, the firm has considered expanding into the Midwest for a long time.

“Chicago was always front of mind,” Inghima said. “It is the financial center of the middle of the country, if not the rest of the country apart from New York. And it’s a very important vicinity, in terms of where many of our

clients are located in some of the industries like transportation and health care.”

The firm will continue to be called Crowell & Moring after the combination on July 1.

For Brinks Gilson, the combination means it can offer a broader range of services and have a greater geographic reach. Gustavo Siller, president of Brinks Gilson, will cochair the firm’s technology and intellectual property department.

“We have a significant number of clients in Chicago,” Siller said. “But a large percentage of our clients are in places like California, New York and other areas where Brinks did not have a physical presence. So the geographic footprint that Crowell has in areas where we have significant clients is something that was very attractive to us as well.”

“Even though we can provide the specialization in intellectual prop-

erty, we didn’t have the ability to move into other adjacent or related areas that require technical skills, such as cybersecurity,” Siller said. “We can certainly service clients for digital transformation on the intellectual property side, but there’s lots of other prongs to servicing clients in that space, regulatory and many other services that we just weren’t able to provide for our clients.”

With Crowell picking up 61 lawyers from Brinks Gilson, the firm will have 625 lawyers in total — 100 of them focused on intellectual property.

Crowell & Moring will immediately add offices in Chicago and Indianapolis. It also plans to open an office in Shenzhen, China, where Brinks Gilson established an office in 2017. ■

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