

Trade Pro Rejoins Crowell & Moring After State Dept. Stint

By **Andrea Keckley**

Law360 (September 8, 2022, 1:40 PM EDT) -- Crowell & Moring LLP on Thursday announced the return of one of its attorneys following her 14-month stint with the U.S. Department of State, bolstering the firm's strength in global trade compliance.

Maria Alejandra del-Cerro is returning to Crowell & Moring's Washington, D.C., office as a partner for its international trade and government contract groups, the firm said.



Maria Alejandra
del-Cerro

"When I thought about coming back, it's really because I had a great experience at Crowell," del-Cerro told Law360 Pulse on Thursday. "And so I wanted to rejoin the team that I was working with. They're a really sharp group at Crowell."

Del-Cerro first joined Crowell & Moring in 2013, staying there until she joined the State Department last year. During her time as a regulatory and multilateral affairs analyst in the Directorate of Defense Trade Controls policy office, del-Cerro helped with the amendment and interpretation of the International Traffic in Arms Regulations. She also collaborated on the advancement of bilateral defense trade working groups' priorities.

"I think most companies just want to comply with the regulations," del-Cerro said. "And so I think it's helpful to have a perspective of the regulator when you're thinking about those kinds of questions."

At Crowell & Moring, del-Cerro will develop and review U.S. export and sanctions compliance programs and work with clients around the world on issues of export compliance, including advising on compliance with economic sanctions stemming from Russia's invasion of Ukraine. She will advise clients not only to economic sanctions but to Export Administration Regulations and International Traffic in Arms Regulations as well.

Del-Cerro said the aftermath of Russia's invasion was a busy time for export counsel as attorneys worked to help clients navigate Bureau of Industry and Security restrictions on trade with Russia.

"I wanted to come back and help on that side of things as well," she said.

John Brew, co-chair of Crowell & Moring's international trade group, said in a statement that del-Cerro's export controls experience at the State Department will provide "tremendous value" to clients.

"We are thrilled to welcome Jana back to the firm," he said.

Del-Cerro, who earned her law degree from American University's Washington College of Law in 2008, told Law360 Pulse that Crowell & Moring has changed quite a bit since she left. Last year, the firm combined with intellectual property boutique Brinks Gilson & Lione. Two months before that, it picked up Wall Street boutique Kibbe & Orbe LLP.

"We have new offices and many new lawyers," she said. "I'm kind of getting to know and figuring out all the new services the firm offers, especially in the IP area."

Founded in 1979, Crowell & Moring currently has offices in the U.S., Europe, the Middle East and Asia. In the U.S. alone, it has more than 500 attorneys and 200 partners, according to annual surveys by Law360 Pulse.

--Additional reporting by Aebra Coe. Editing by Alanna Weissman.