

GAO Vet Joins Crowell & Moring Government Contracts Team

By Alison Knezevich

Law360 (March 15, 2023, 4:10 PM EDT) -- A veteran of the U.S. Government Accountability Office who handled thousands of bid disputes over the years has joined Crowell & Moring LLP's government contracts group in Washington, D.C., the firm said Wednesday.

Louis A. "Lou" Chiarella joins the firm as senior counsel. He most recently served as deputy assistant general counsel handling bid protests at the GAO, which he joined more than two decades ago.

Chiarella also served on the office's Contract Appeals Board, a position in which he adjudicated disputes involving legislative branch agencies, the firm said.

During his GAO career, he handled more than 2,000 bid protests, including high-profile challenges and those involving classified materials.

"Lou is a terrific addition to our bid protest practice given his GAO experience, industry reputation, and ability to handle classified protests," Daniel Forman, co-chair of Crowell & Moring's government contracts group, said in a statement.

Chiarella wasn't immediately available for an interview Wednesday.

"I am absolutely thrilled to be joining Crowell & Moring," he said in a statement from the firm. "Having witnessed the outstanding work of so many Crowell attorneys over the years, I am eager to practice alongside them and deliver exemplary service to our clients."

Among Chiarella's GAO cases in recent years were those involving the protest by Microsoft over a \$10 billion National Security Agency cloud computing contract awarded to Amazon Web Services, and a Verizon unit's challenge to a \$306.2 million U.S. Department of Homeland Security data services deal awarded to AT&T.

Chiarella also teaches courses on government contracts at the George Washington University Law School as an adjunct faculty member.

He served in the U.S. Army, where he was on active duty from 1988 to 2001 and in the reserves from



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2001 to 2018, attaining the rank of colonel, Crowell & Moring said. He served in a range of legal roles for the Army.

Chiarella graduated from law school at the State University of New York at Buffalo Law School and earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame. He also has a master's degree in international affairs from the Catholic University of America, as well as a Master of Laws from the Army's Judge Advocate General's School.

--Additional reporting by Daniel Wilson. Editing by Daniel King.

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