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By Katelyn Polantz

Angela Styles, Government Contracts Lawyer, Named Chair of Crowell & Moring

Crowell & Moring's partnership has elected a new chair, government contracts attorney Angela Styles, the firm said Monday.

Styles succeeds litigator Kent Gardiner, who stepped down because of term limits this year.

"It's a pretty strong foundation that I have to start with," Styles told the NLJ after her election. "I'm sure I will change some things. But we're at such a good place right now, we just need to keep thinking forward."

Styles said she wants to maintain Crowell's focus on litigation and trial work as well as on regulation, especially in government contracts law, one of the practice areas on which the firm was originally built.

"I think it's very important to have a broad portfolio of clients," she said. "It's making sure you have the right mix in your portfolio so that you're successful."

Styles, 47, came to the firm as a lateral partner from Miller & Chevalier in 2007. At the time, Crowell recruited her with leadership positions in mind for her future, former colleagues said. She was already well known among government contracts lawyers and contracting companies, having served in President George W. Bush's administration as head of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy, one of a handful of political appointments within the Office of Management and Budget.

Since joining Crowell, Styles has served on the firm management board for four years and was chairwoman of its executive committee, a smaller group, last year. The



Angela Styles.

Photo: Joe Shymanski

partnership traditionally elects a firm leader from the executive committee.

Styles is also a co-chairwoman of the firm's government contracts group, one of the firm's largest. Crowell has not yet chosen a successor to her in that practice area, she said.

Despite the shift in titles, Styles won't entirely give up her workload as a lawyer, she said.

"Over time I've been shifting and balancing leadership and management responsibilities, making sure I'm able to delegate a lot of my practice," she said. "It's just very important to stay in touch with the people I'm leading. Some of that is

understanding how the firm works from their perspective. I think maintaining some practice is important in doing that."

Crowell, a 450-lawyer firm with roots in Washington and in government contracts work, posted strong financial results in 2014. Profits per partner were up more than 10 percent, to \$1.03 million.

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