

## Crowell & Moring's Latest Ex-GC Boosts Fin Services Team

By **Andrea Keckley**

*Law360 (June 6, 2024, 3:45 PM EDT)* -- As more general counsels look to opportunities in BigLaw, Crowell & Moring announced Thursday that it has hired the former general counsel and chief compliance officer at investment firm Commonwealth Asset Management.

Christopher Mendez is joining Crowell's New York office as senior counsel in its financial services group. He told Law360 Pulse on Thursday that he was familiar with the firm through its work with his last employer.

"I had that opportunity to be able to essentially understand the team before even joining," he said.

Mendez's move comes just months after the firm added another former general counsel to its ranks when it hired Stephen Bentfield from DaVita Integrated Kidney Care, one of several recent examples of firms attracting experienced in-house talent.

"I think [law firm and in-house positions] are two very different roles that require some overlapping skill sets, but also different skill sets," Mendez said. "I just happen to love providing advice and love having touch points with many firms within the industry."

Mendez, a former U.S. Marine Corps sergeant, has worked within BigLaw before. He spent time in Goodwin Procter LLP's business law department before joining boutique fixed-income investment manager Semper Capital Management LP as its general counsel and chief compliance officer in 2017.

In his current practice, Mendez focuses on complex fund formation in the areas of credit, hedge funds, private equity, real estate and venture capital, according to Crowell. He has experience with SEC regulatory matters and investigations, legal and compliance team management and corporate and fund-related transactions.

Mendez earned his law degree from the Rutgers School of Law.

"Chris is a dynamic, entrepreneurial corporate professional with deep knowledge of the inner workings of investment firms, which gives him an edge in advising clients on fund formation and transactional engagements," financial services group Paul B. Haskel said in a statement. "Chris has a track record of



Christopher Mendez

success and is well-equipped to advise and represent fund managers on legal, compliance, and transactional matters."

--Additional reporting by Michele Gorman and Sue Reisinger. Editing by Vaqas Asghar.

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