

Crowell & Moring Adds 'Swiss Army Knife' Atty In Calif.

By Jake Maher

Law360 (July 9, 2024, 7:02 AM EDT) -- Crowell & Moring LLP grew in San Francisco this week, announcing Tuesday that it has added a former state prosecutor and e-commerce in-house counsel who has a reputation as a "Swiss Army knife style of lawyer."

Joanna Rosen Forster joins the firm's litigation team from ContextLogic Inc. and its subsidiary, e-commerce platform Wish, where she has served as general counsel and chief compliance officer for the past year, Crowell & Moring said.

Forster said she knew all along she wanted to return to private practice at some point in her career, and was particularly attracted to Crowell & Moring's focus on cross-border disputes, antitrust law and venture capital clients.



Joanna Rosen Forster

"I'm delighted to have this multidisciplinary practice now back in private practice," Forster said.

Building a multidisciplinary practice spanning a wide range of areas has been a goal of hers since early in her career, according to Forster. At a time when she saw colleagues becoming specialists in narrow fields, she said she was determined to "buck that trend."

Now, in her new role at Crowell & Moring, Forster will handle litigation — her "DNA," Forster said — with a focus on complex, domestic and cross-border cases.

Forster's work at ContextLogic included guiding the company through a \$173 million sale of its Wish e-commerce component to Qoo10, according Forster, in a deal that left ContextLogic remaining as an independent company. She said she will remain outside counsel for ContextLogic at Crowell & Moring and hopes to expand the outside general counsel element of her practice to other tech and e-commerce companies.

Before Wish, Forster spent five years as a deputy attorney general at the California Department of Justice in the Corporate Fraud Section, where she worked on an initiative by then-Attorney General Kamala Harris to recover funds from banks and credit rating agencies for California pensions lost through the 2008 financial crisis.

"That was really something I'm very proud of," Forster said.

Earlier in her career Forster spent about 10 years in private practice working on antitrust and

commercial litigation before becoming a prosecutor, according to Crowell & Moring's statement on her hire.

Forster holds law degree and undergraduate degrees from the University of California, Berkeley.

"Joanna's addition to our San Francisco office buttresses our tech sector credentials, while serving as the perfect bridge between our litigation and corporate and transactional groups," Warrington Parker, managing partner of Crowell's San Francisco office, said in a statement. "There is a reason she has been called a Swiss Army knife style of lawyer: She can do it all and we are thrilled to welcome her."

--Editing by Alanna Weissman.

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