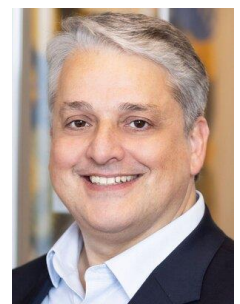


## Mintz Environmental Atty Joins Crowell & Moring In SF

By James Mills

*Law360 (January 7, 2025, 9:51 AM EST)* -- Crowell & Moring LLP is boosting its California environmental team, announcing Tuesday it is bringing in an environmental expert from Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo PC as a partner in its San Francisco office.

Jon Welner joins Crowell & Moring's environment, energy and natural resources group after six and a half years with Mintz. His practice focuses on regulation of air, water, hazardous materials and waste, consumer products, traditional and renewable energy, and natural resources. He also helps clients navigate the California Environmental Quality Act, the Proposition 65 list of chemicals known to cause cancer or reproductive harm, and brownfield redevelopment, as well as acquisition of land use entitlements. Likewise, he handles coastal development matters and the permitting of industrial and energy facilities.



Jon Welner

In an interview, Welner told Law360 Pulse that Crowell & Moring was the "ideal fit" for someone with a practice like his.

"What Crowell does so well, it has this national regulatory and environmental practice. It helps clients solve their environmental and regulatory problems nationwide," Welner said.

"They were looking to build that capacity even more in California. That's really the focus of my work in California," he said. "Once we found each other, it was one of these love-at-first-sight kind of situations where I bring the skills that they want to have for their clients in California, and they have the kind of practice nationwide that excites me and will support my California clients. So, it was just a natural match."

He is especially happy that Crowell has such a strong regulatory practice.

"One of the things that Crowell really focuses on is the regulatory space. That is where environmental issues live and breathe," Welner said. "To have a firm that is dedicated to having a robust practice in the regulatory space is very special. It doesn't happen all the time. That is one of the things Crowell does very well."

While he's busy with regulatory matters, he notes some of his clients also have transactional or litigation needs. He's glad Crowell & Moring can accommodate those cross-disciplinary needs for his clients.

"The firm is set up to service all those needs together on a team basis, as opposed to having to go from

department to department," Welner said. "That's something that really fits well with the kind of practice that I have. My clients aren't coming to me with pure litigation or pure regulatory or pure transactional needs. They come with a mix of things. I love the fact that we're able to use the team approach and not create artificial barriers between those kinds of services."

"Jon has decades of experience solving regulatory problems in all areas of environmental law, and clients turn to him because he knows how to get things done in California," Kirsten Nathanson, co-chair of the firm's environment, energy and natural resources practice group, said in a statement. "Jon broadens our bench strength in environmental litigation, investigations and regulatory enforcement, and he provides our clients with deep experience in the booming areas of California land development and infrastructure-related work."

Welner, who grew up in St. Louis, earned his undergraduate degree in political science in 1989 at Stanford University. He worked several years at the World Wildlife Fund in Washington, D.C., then returned to California to work for the California Natural Resources Agency. Those experiences helped him decide to study environmental law when he went to Stanford Law School, where he earned his law degree in 1995.

He worked three years as an associate with Beveridge & Diamond PC in San Francisco, then joined McKinsey & Co. as a consultant for two years, according to his LinkedIn profile.

In 2002, he returned to private practice, joining Paul Hastings for eight years. In 2010, he moved to Downey Brand LLP and served as chair of its San Francisco office.

In 2012, he joined Jeffer Mangels Butler & Mitchell LLP, where he was a partner in its government, land use, environment and energy practice group. He moved to Mintz in 2018.

Since 2018, Welner also has been a member of the City Council of Tiburon, California, in Marin County, north of San Francisco. Prior to that, he served six years on Tiburon's Planning Commission.

He is glad that he has been able to make a career as an environmental lawyer.

"I can hardly think of any set of issues that resonate more with me and I think are more important than the care of our planet and the care of our environment," he said. "If I can make a difference and I can build a career working on those issues, I think that is a remarkable thing to have happen."

He especially likes that environmental issues have grown more complex and sophisticated in recent years, requiring him to stay on his toes to keep up with current issues and trends.

"How environmental law was 30 years ago compared to what it is now, it's really evolved a lot and the issues have gotten in some ways more difficult," he said. "But our clients typically are seeking to achieve great outcomes for themselves and for the environment, and we help them to do that."

--Editing by Robert Rudinger.