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Crowell & Moring Lands Complex Litigation Partner In DC

By Jack Rodgers

Law360 (August 22, 2022, 12:37 PM EDT) -- A former Honigman LLP partner has joined Crowell & Moring LLP's mass tort, product and consumer litigation groups as a partner, the firm recently announced.

Mohamed Awan joins Crowell & Moring's Washington, D.C. office as a partner, after spending five years at Honigman in the firm's complex commercial litigation and private equity litigation groups, according to his LinkedIn profile. At that firm, Awan also worked as an auxiliary member on the board of directors.

Crowell & Moring said in an Aug. 18 news release that Awan had previous experience working with several statutes related to class actions and mass torts, including litigating matters pertaining to Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act of 1996 — a law that protects corporations against civil suits for content on their platforms posted by a third party.

Along with that work, Awan will litigate nationwide class action suits for the firm, pertaining to warranty class actions, the firm said. He already has experience litigating another warranty dispute for one of the country's leading auto manufacturers, the firm said.

Awan also has experience litigating disputes over broker deals, material adverse change provisions, fraud, and breach of representation and warranty issues, the firm said.

In a statement Aug. 18, Awan said he decided to move to Crowell & Moring because of its national platform that focuses on the top litigative issues.

"Having worked in parallel with several of the firm's lawyers on related matters, I couldn't have been more impressed — certainly by their skillful handling of cases but also by their innovative thinking and collaboration," he said. "As a diverse lawyer, I also appreciate the opportunity to join a firm that puts a sincere, authentic focus on crucial issues related to diversity, equity and inclusions. I am thrilled to be joining the Crowell team."

Awan previously worked as a Kirkland & Ellis LLP associate, where he focused on similar litigation, working on private equity and private funds disputes, according to his LinkedIn profile. He additionally worked on class actions and global product liability for Shook Hardy & Bacon LLP as an associate, according to his LinkedIn profile.

After graduating from American University College of Law in 2011, Awan worked as a law clerk for former U.S. District Judge Lawrence P. Zatkoff on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of

Michigan, according to his LinkedIn profile.

April Ross, vice chairwoman of the firm's mass tort, product and consumer litigation group, said in a statement that Awan's experience would be an asset for the firm's clients.

"His experience handling product liability and warranty matters and his experience managing large, multi-jurisdictional matters will expand our class action bench and enhance our national litigation platform," she said.

Keith Harrison, who co-chairs the litigation group for Crowell & Moring, said in a statement the group was looking forward to Awan's assistance on complex litigation matters.

"He brings a broad range of talents and an impressive track record in the complex commercial litigation and financial services spaces that will benefit corporate clients navigating challenges to their business," he said. "Whether it is contract disputes, shareholder derivative suits, securities matters and beyond, Mohamed is poised to truly make an impact."

The firm noted that it had added several attorneys to its financial services practice since its March 2021 merger with Kibbe & Orbe LLP. A few months later, the firm continued to beef up its financial services practice, with former Goodwin Procter LLP veteran Brian Hail joining the firm in New York.

Crowell & Moring also added a four-attorney derivatives team from McGuireWoods LLP in December year — that team joining the firm's London office.

--Additional reporting by Steven Lerner, Sarah Martinson and Emily Lever. Editing by Alex Hubbard.