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Crowell & Moring Boosts Chicago Base With Litigation Partner

By Emily Lever

Law360 (April 21, 2022, 1:27 AM EDT) -- Crowell & Moring LLP announced on Thursday that it is adding to its Chicago bench, which opened last year, with a partner from Loeb & Loeb LLP focused on commercial litigation and consumer class-action defense.

Jason P. Stiehl, who joins the technology and brand protection practice, adds to a Windy City office launched in July 2021 by a merger with local IP firm Brinks Gilson & Lione. Stiehl has a track record in brand protection, an area Crowell has plans for, but the bulk of his experience is class action, trade secrets, corporate espionage and commercial litigation, according to the firm.

"Jason is a respected litigator whose brand protection and false advertising experience will be key as we continue to expand our brand protection presence nationwide," Howard Michael, the co-chair of Crowell's technology and brand protection group, said in a statement. "In addition, his knowledge of various technology and innovation sectors aligns well with the deep IP capabilities in our Chicago office and will be valuable to clients who are navigating complex brand protection matters."

Stiehl joins Crowell from Loeb & Loeb, where he was a partner for four years. Prior to that, he was a partner at Akerman LLP from 2016 to 2018 after spending 10 years at Seyfarth Shaw LLP.

Stiehl's clients range across a number of industries, including the retail, automotive, food and beverage, advertising, pharmaceutical, banking, manufacturing, real estate, technology and transportation industries. Among his recent matters, he was part of a team that in 2020 obtained the dismissal of two proposed class actions against PetSmart Inc. for allegedly selling hemp products for pets that hadn't passed muster with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. He also represented a mechanical and automotive part cleaner accused of charging contracting auto shops "sham" fuel surcharges. At Seyfarth, he was part of a team representing Stryker Corp. in its suit accusing a former salesman of breach of contract and leaking confidential information.

"Growing our presence in Chicago is a strategic priority, and Jason's experience across a wide range of sectors both complements and extends our practice in the Midwest and nationally," Philip T. Inglima, the chair of Crowell & Moring, said in a statement.

In his consumer class action defense practice, Stiehl represents corporations facing claims of fraud, false advertising, and mislabeling related to food and other consumer products.

He also represents clients accused of violating consumer protection and privacy laws around electronic

funds transfers, biometric information and internet data, as well as laws restricting robocalls and telemarketing. Trade secret and restrictive covenant litigation is also part of his practice.

"Jason's experience leading class action, trade secrets, and commercial litigation matters is a natural fit with our litigation bench," Jennifer S. Romano, who co-chairs Crowell's litigation group, said in a statement. "He will play an important role in leading our litigation efforts in Chicago and across the country."

Stiehl holds degrees from Chicago-Kent College of Law and Trinity University. He is a former chair of the Chicago Bar Association's Class Action Committee.

--Editing by Marygrace Anderson.

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