

Ex-Crowell & Moring Chair Makes Move To Bracewell In DC

By Sam Reisman

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The former chair of Crowell & Moring LLP is joining Bracewell LLP's Washington, D.C., office as a partner in the firm's burgeoning government contracts practice, Bracewell announced Tuesday.

Angela Styles' move to Bracewell follows her abrupt departure less than two weeks ago from Crowell & Moring, where she had been a member of the firm's management board and had been chair of the firm from March 2015 until she was voted out earlier this month.

After years in firm management, Styles said she is most excited about diving back into practicing law, noting that Bracewell's energy and technology focus made it an ideal place to bring the practice she maintained as a firm leader, much of which was concentrated in the energy industry.

"I'm excited to devote more time to working with my government contract clients and expanding government contracts work for existing Bracewell clients. I can imagine no better place to do so than Bracewell," Styles said in a statement. "Bracewell has successfully retained its authentic culture as it continues to grow to better serve the needs of its clients with an important strategic focus on energy and technology."

Mark K. Lewis, managing partner of Bracewell's D.C. office, noted that bringing on Styles, whom he has known professionally for more than 20 years, was a natural next step in the firm's plan to build its nascent government contracts practice, initiated with the hire of Robert J. Wagman Jr. in March.

"We consciously decided that this was a practice that makes sense for us," Lewis told Law360. "We do a lot of work for clients seeking permits or authorization or challenging a lack of authorization, but what was missing from our offering of services was that a lot our clients actually do business with the federal government. We thought it was a natural and synergistic practice to add."

Bracewell managing partner Gregory M. Bopp praised Styles in a statement and cited her record of leadership and experience in government contracts matters.

Styles had spent a decade in Crowell's D.C. office. Prior to that, she served in the federal government as



Angela Styles

administrator for federal procurement policy within the Office of Management and Budget at the White House.

On Oct. 19, Crowell announced that Philip T. Inglima, a partner in the firm's white collar and regulatory enforcement group, would succeed Styles as chair. Shortly thereafter, Styles announced that she would be leaving the firm "to pursue several opportunities that have arisen," without elaborating.

Speaking to Law360 on Tuesday, Styles declined to discuss her decision to leave Crowell but noted she remained on good terms with several of her former colleagues.

"I'm just focused on looking forward," she said. "I enjoyed my tenure at Crowell. At the end of the day this was the right move and decision for me. I don't want to focus too much on the past."

--Editing by Brian Baresch.