

## Morgan Lewis Continues DC Growth With Ex-Covington Atty

By Jack Rodgers

*Law360 (April 18, 2024, 3:38 PM EDT)* -- Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP has hired a career Covington & Burling LLP attorney, who joins the firm just days after a trio of Crowell & Moring LLP attorneys made the jump to the firm, two of whom are also based in Washington, D.C.

Alex Hastings is Morgan Lewis' newest partner, joining the firm to continue his practice advising companies on how to interact with U.S. federal and state agencies.

His work includes counseling government contractors on complex regulatory issues, and his clients work in the defense, life sciences and commercial sectors, according to Morgan Lewis' announcement.

Hastings is the fourth partner to join Morgan Lewis in D.C. in the past two weeks.

R. Latane Montague, the former head of Hogan Lovells' transportation practice, made the jump after 26 years with his former firm on April 11, to help co-lead Morgan Lewis' global automotive and mobility practice.

On Monday, Morgan Lewis hired three Crowell & Moring partners: April Nelson Ross, Rachel Raphael and Mohamed Awan. Ross and Raphael joined the firm in D.C. while Awan moved to the firm's Chicago office.

In addition to advising government contractors, Hastings also counsels a range of business clients working with aerospace and defense, life sciences and technology products on issues related to intellectual property. Hastings advises transaction teams on government contracts due diligence reviews and transactional document negotiations, the firm said.

In an email to Law360 Pulse on Thursday, Hastings said his government contracts-focused practice is always exciting "because it can help to create opportunities for businesses" while also helping out government agencies.

"This practice is particularly rewarding when we can help simplify an otherwise complex regulatory framework to find ways for a business to sell its products, perform research or otherwise advance its mission in partnership with its government customer," Hastings said.



Alexander Hastings

Hastings, a George Washington University Law School graduate, has spent nearly the entire of his legal career with Covington & Burling. He was a summer associate at the firm while pursuing his law degree and joined as an associate after graduating in 2011, according to his LinkedIn profile.

Outside a two-year clerkship with the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, Covington & Burling was the only firm Hastings worked for. He rejoined as an associate after that Fifth Circuit clerkship in 2014, was made a special counsel in 2019 and of counsel in 2022, according to his LinkedIn profile.

Hastings said he is looking forward to his new role and is "excited to join a global platform with a collaborative group of lawyers" who serve a "broad range of clients in the technology, life sciences, commercial and defense sectors."

"Companies face an array of different issues when they are selling to or collaborating with government entities, and I look forward to the opportunities to support the firm's diverse clients," Hastings said.

Jami McKeon, Morgan Lewis' chairwoman, said in a statement that a number of firm clients collaborate with the U.S. government, making Hastings' practice an asset to the team.

"Alex brings added strength to our government contracts practice through a full suite of regulatory counseling that will benefit a broad spectrum of clients from pure-play defense contractors to commercial companies who are starting out in this area," McKeon said in a statement.

Hastings was not immediately available to comment Thursday.

--Additional reporting by Adrian Cruz and Tracey Read. Editing by Stephen Berg.