

Three Crowns' first partner promotion

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Three Crowns, the world's first global arbitration law firm, today announced its first partner promotion of Scott Vesel who joined the London office upon the firm's launch

in April 2014. He has served at the U.S. Department of State and joined from Shearman & Sterling, where he was a core member of the team that won a US\$ 50 billion award in the Yukos case.

Josh Simmons, senior associate, also joins the Washington DC office from the U.S. Department of State; prior to that he was with Covington Burling LLP.

Gaetan Verhoosel, one of six founding partners said: "The international disputes that are placed in our care require specialised advice and advocacy. We have built a firm to deliver this, and Scott's promotion and Josh's recruitment is testament to our ability to attract, develop, and retain the very best and brightest in the field."

Scott has acted in numerous investment treaty and commercial arbitration cases under the rules of the major arbitral institutions with particularly extensive experience in the oil and gas, construction, and power sectors and in disputes arising in Europe, the CIS, Africa and Latin America.

Scott speaks French, German and Russian, as well as basic Latvian and Spanish, and is helping to expand the firm's practice in CEE and the former Soviet Union.

Previously Scott served as an attorney-adviser at the U.S. Department of State, where he handled issues from the laws of war and defense trade to national security-related litigation in U.S. courts, and at the OSCE Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, where he organised and co-conducted human rights training programmes in various OSCE countries, including Georgia, Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

Prior to his legal career, he worked at the EastWest Institute, an NGO focusing on the transition in Central and Eastern Europe, where he coordinated a programme of advice on democratic oversight of the security sector to the first democratically elected government in Belgrade after the fall of Slobodan Milosevic

Harold Hongju Koh, Sterling Professor of International Law at Yale Law School, former Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of State said: "I have worked with Scott for many years in varied roles and found him to be a gifted and meticulous international lawyer, with broad experience in both the public and private sectors. He is strikingly conversant and comfortable with a broad range of international law issues, ranging from human rights to international humanitarian law to economic sanctions to all manner of international arbitration matters. And he is a thoughtful intellect and graciously attentive lawyer, who would serve any client extremely well."

Jens Bürkle, Areva Group General Counsel - Nuclear

Activities said: “Scott combines outstanding analytical and advocacy skills with hard work and efficiency. He leaves no stone unturned.”

Tom Sikora, Counsel in the International Disputes Group

at ExxonMobil said: “Scott’s promotion to the ranks of partner at Three Crowns was well deserved. Simply put, even in our field, so blessed with talent, Scott is an exceptional lawyer. His deep intellect, amazing creativity, polyglot abilities and relentless passion set him apart.”

Josh Simmons joins the Washington DC office as Senior Associate. He has extensive experience representing both investors and States in complex, high-value disputes under investment treaties and contracts. Prior to joining Three Crowns, Josh served at the U.S. Department of State in the Office of the Legal Adviser, where he represented the United States in international arbitrations, managed claims by U.S. nationals against foreign governments, and helped negotiate a landmark Holocaust compensation agreement between the United States and France.

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