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Two BigLaw Firms Make Waves with Major Lateral Acquisitions

In a bold reshaping of talent strategies, **Crowell & Moring** and **Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer** have each engaged in substantial mass lateral hiring, bringing in at least **52 attorneys** in total, according to the ABA Journal.Facebook+1Reuters+15ABA Journal+15ABA Journal+15

Crowell & Moring's Healthcare Expansion

Crowell & Moring significantly bolstered its presence in the **healthcare litigation sector** by acquiring a substantial team from **Reed Smith**. The move includes:

- **16 partners** led by Martin Bishop, formerly on Reed Smith's executive committee.
- A total of **40 or more lawyers**, plus **dozens of professional staff**, spanning cities like **Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco**, and a newly launched **Dallas** office.Reuters+1

This aggressive move deepens Crowell's footprint in key markets and underscores a focused investment in its healthcare practice.

Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer's Ambitious Lateral Strategy

Alongside Crowell's hiring spree, **Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer** also made headlines by hiring a large group of lateral lawyers—though the firm details are less publicized, the scale clearly elevates its strategic capabilities.rollonfriday.com+12ABA Journal+12Reuters+12

What's Driving These Industry Moves?

1. **Strategic Practice Growth**
   Crowell's latest team brings essential litigation strength and geographic reach, enabling it to serve complex healthcare clients across multiple major U.S. markets.Reuters
2. **Talent Consolidation & Market Positioning**
   Arnold & Porter's sizable lateral addition likely reflects a push to fortify practice areas, cultivate specialized expertise, and enhance competitiveness.
3. **M&A & Strategic Hiring Trends in Context**
   While lateral hiring overall cooled in recent years—with NALP reporting a 35% decline in 2023—the bold moves from certain firms highlight that high-impact, targeted lateral growth continues, particularly in niche or high-revenue segments.X (formerly Twitter)+9Reuters+9ABA Journal+9Legal News

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What This Means for JDJournal Readers

- **Law firm leaders and hiring partners**: These mass lateral integrations reflect a playbook for rapid scaling in specialized areas—healthcare litigation being a prime example.
- **Lateral candidates**: Opportunities to join well-established practices with robust geographic reach and leadership structures are emerging.

- **Market watchers**: These moves suggest that despite macroeconomic caution, law firms with capital and strategic intent are actively competing for top-tier talent.

Bottom Line: Crowell & Moring’s acquisition of a 40+ attorney healthcare team and Arnold & Porter’s parallel effort signal a renewed wave of assertive lateral hiring in BigLaw—strategic expansions designed to capture market share and reinforce growth trajectories.

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