

Expert Sources on Legal Matters in Tech



Class Actions

David Almeida is widely recognized as an expert in consumer fraud and privacy class action defense, with a focus on cases brought under tech sector regulations such as the Illinois Biometric Privacy Act and the Telephone Consumer Protection Act. His nationwide practice serves clients across a variety of industry sectors including retail, telecommunications, marketing and advertising, hospitality and health care. A partner at Benesch, he chairs the firm's retail, hospitality and consumer products group and co-chairs its class action practice group.

Data Breaches

Desiree Moore counsels corporations, educational institutions and high-profile individuals in proactively planning for and effectively managing digital crises including data breach, online defamation, harassment, impersonation, university and other educational scandals, celebrity disgrace events, and leaked confidential and proprietary information. She also helps clients identify and manage the risks associated with social media. Desiree is actively involved in the firm-wide Women in the Profession group and spearheads the Women's Mastermind program, which supports the business development goals of women associates and partners. Desiree is a founding member of the digital crisis planning and response (DCPR) client solution and a partner at K&L Gates.

Michael Waters is an experienced litigator in tech transactions and data privacy. He counsels clients across industries through nearly every conceivable type of data breach, from system-wide network intrusions and ransomware attacks to situations involving cyber extortion, stolen laptops and computer hardware, email compromises, wire fraud and employee wrongdoing. He also assists clients in managing the privacy risks associated with maintaining and transferring information. Michael is a shareholder at Polsinelli.

Drones

Tom Gemmell is an intellectual property and business litigator. He represents clients in the aerospace, automotive, health care and manufacturing industries. In the area of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), commonly referred to as "drones," Tom is proficient in FAA regulations, UAS technologies and operations in national airspace, and is among the first to obtain FAA authorization for the commercial use of drones. Tom serves as lead of the transportation and logistics practice, and co-leads the unmanned aircraft systems and advanced robotics practice and the aviation practice at Polsinelli.

Finance

William Doran is a corporate and securities attorney specializing in mergers and acquisitions, general corporate and commercial transactions, private equity, and debt and equity finance. He helps enterprises found and grow new ventures, buy, sell, finance and take companies public. As a seasoned deal attorney, Bill has helped many clients successfully complete a variety of public and private transactions. Bill is a partner at Benesch.

Intellectual Property

Kal Shah represents clients in complex commercial litigation and intellectual property litigation matters, including trademark and patent matters in science and internet applications, bioengineering, electrical technologies and lighting systems, mechanical systems and wireless technologies. Kal also represents clients in Lanham Act disputes, software license and copyright matters, and other related cases. Kal serves as chair of the intellectual property litigation practice group and co-chair of the diversity and inclusion committee at Benesch.

Litigation

J. Erik Connolly represents tech companies and other high-profile businesses in commercial matters, including defending the reputations of organizations in defamation, disparagement and tortious interference cases. He is responsible for negotiating the largest-ever settlement paid in a media defamation case in the U.S. and has become a go-to resource for businesses and industry groups being maligned in the press or on social media. Erik also advises corporations dealing with allegations of fraud, negligence, breach of contract, insider trading and product liability. Erik is vice-chair of the litigation practice group and serves on the executive committee at Benesch.

Privacy

Lisa Acevedo advises clients in the areas of federal health privacy laws and regulations, including HIPAA, FERPA and the Confidentiality of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment Records (42 CFR Part 2), as well as state laws governing the confidentiality of health information, mental health records, and records containing other highly sensitive information. She also advises multinational health care companies with international data protection laws that impact their use and transfer of health data, including the EU Privacy Directive, the soon-to-be-effective General Data Protection Regulation, and Privacy Shield compliance. Lisa is a shareholder at Polsinelli, where she chairs the firm's health information privacy and security team.

Regulatory Compliance

Daniel Farris is a technology transactions and data protection attorney and counsels clients including data center operations, fiber optic networking, cloud computing, information governance, emerging technologies, and privacy and data security. He is a trusted advisor to companies operating in highly regulated industries, such as technology and telecommunications, health care, banking and financial services, investment management, insurance, retail and consumer businesses, transportation, manufacturing, and professional services providers. He also advises startup, embryonic, and emerging growth companies. Daniel is a partner at K&L Gates.

Risk Management

David Goodman is a trial attorney focusing on commercial litigation, with a particular emphasis on protecting the interests of business insurance policyholders. In addition to guiding tech and startup companies through complex disputes such as "business divorces" and other contentious matters, David also applies his experience to helping founders and key executives manage risk and avoid conflicts. Formerly the managing partner of a national law firm's Chicago office, David now runs his own practice, Goodman Law Group.

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