

Gregory J. Leighton

PRIVACY & INCIDENT RESPONSE VICE CHAIR

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Greg Leighton helps companies manage privacy and cybersecurity risk with precision, designing practical compliance programs that reduce exposure and defending clients when privacy-related disputes arise. He advises clients across industries on building and maintaining domestic and international privacy frameworks, data security, navigating cross-border data transfers and structuring transactions that involve technology or data flows. Greg also represents clients in class-action lawsuits involving alleged breaches of privacy and security laws, bringing a combination of regulatory insight and courtroom experience. As Vice Chair of the firm's Privacy & Incident Response practice, he helps lead the group's national strategy and growth.

In addition to his privacy work, Greg is a registered patent attorney who advises clients on patent prosecution and the protection and enforcement of intellectual property assets. He has successfully represented clients in patent, trademark and copyright disputes before federal courts, the Patent Trial and Appeal Board and U.S. International Trade Commission. With a technical background in chemical engineering — in which regularly advanced innovative product and process designs — he brings valuable perspective to clients in science and technology-driven industries.

Greg's practice spans the full range of projects needed to build and maintain effective privacy compliance programs, including:

- Privacy risk and gap assessments
- Data mapping
- Website and internal privacy policy drafting
- Data processing agreements
- Data Subject Request policies and procedures
- Cross-Border Data Transfer Agreements and Impact Assessments
- Data Privacy Impact Assessments
- Data license and access agreements
- Data governance policies

Education

- Loyola University Chicago School of Law (J.D., *cum laude*, 2006)

Capabilities

- Technology Transactions
- Privacy & Cybersecurity
- International Privacy
- Information Security (InfoSec)
- Data Breach & Incident Response
- Privacy & Cybersecurity Counseling
- Technology
- International

- Northwestern University (B.S., 2003)

Bar Admissions

- Illinois

Court Admissions

- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit
- Supreme Court of Illinois
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois
- U.S. District Court, Central District of Illinois
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Texas
- U.S. District Court, Central District of California
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York
- U.S. District Court, Middle District of Tennessee
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Texas
- U.S. District Court, District of Utah
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Pennsylvania
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Alabama

Memberships

- Northern District of Illinois Trial Bar
- International Association of Privacy Professionals
 - Certified Information Privacy Professional (CIPP/US and CIPP/E)
 - Certified Information Privacy Manager (CIPM)

Recognition

- Selected for inclusion in *Best Lawyers in America*® for Privacy and Data Security Law, 2026
- Recognized in "40 Under 40," *Chicago Daily Bulletin*, 2019
- Recognized as a Privacy Law Specialist by the International Association of Privacy Professionals and the American Bar Association

Matters

- Serve as outside privacy counsel to a leading same-day delivery platform, including advising on digital marketing compliance, vendor and customer data sharing and employee privacy matters. We have also supported the development of the company's data subject access request program and advised their product and legal teams on privacy by design in connection with application development.
- Serve as outside privacy counsel for a fast-growing technology company, assisting in maintaining and evolving its privacy program to be in compliance with applicable federal, state and international privacy laws including the GDPR, CCPA, HIPAA, FTC Act, TCPA and PIPL.
- Serve as outside privacy counsel for a corporate advisory and accounting firm,

assisting in maintaining and evolving its privacy program to be in compliance with applicable federal, state and international privacy laws.

- Serve as outside privacy counsel for a leading full-service dining company, assisting in maintaining and evolving its privacy program and representing the client in connection with putative class action claims related to privacy violations.
- Serve as outside privacy counsel for a globally recognized leader in imaging, including assisting the business in maintaining and evolving its privacy program as well as data privacy advice pertaining to data center agreements.
- Advise a political governing body on the unique data protection challenges that arise in the political and nonprofit sectors, including helping the organization safeguard sensitive data, ensuring compliance with federal and state privacy requirements and assisting with vendor and technology agreements.
- Serve as outside privacy counsel to a leading hospitality company, including advising on global data protection compliance across operations, assisting with vendor and technology agreements involving sensitive traveler information, designing incident response and breach notification strategies and providing guidance on compliance with U.S. and international privacy regimes critical to the hotel industry.
- Serve as outside privacy counsel to a prominent provider of travel benefits and services, including advising on compliance with privacy regulations governing financial services and consumer travel data, assisting with privacy-by-design strategies for digital platforms, negotiating vendor and partner agreements in the travel ecosystem and drafting policies to ensure secure handling of customer data in alignment with both banking and travel industry requirements.