

John Thomas (J.T.) A. Malatesta, III

SHAREHOLDER

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With two decades of experience, J.T. advises clients around the world across a wide range of cybersecurity and data privacy issues. He has extensive experience guiding clients through incident response, regulatory investigations and class action litigation. J.T. was one of the early pioneers in the field of cybersecurity law. He is a founding member of the Sedona Conference Working Group on Data Security and Privacy Liability and is a frequent speaker on emerging issues in cybersecurity regulation and data breach litigation. J.T. has been lead counsel on over 500 cybersecurity incidents and has defended companies before the FTC, SEC, CFPB, NYSDFS, and European Data Protection Authorities. He has litigated multiple data breach cases in the United States.

Clients often call on J.T. due to his practical, strategic approach to evaluate cybersecurity risk and exposure within the broader business context and has an uncanny ability to frame these issues for the different audiences between the board room and the server room. He works with a number of private equity funds and their portfolio companies across all facets of cybersecurity risk management.

Experience

- Directing overall response to cybersecurity incidents
- Initiating and directing proactive cybersecurity and privacy risk assessments
- Developing and implementing compliance programs
- Defending companies in regulatory investigations and class action litigation
- Providing strategic advice on new and existing business initiatives

Education

- University of Virginia School of Law (J.D., 2004)
 - Virginia Tax Review, Articles Editor
 - Virginia Sports and Entertainment Law Journal

Bar Admissions

- Alabama
- New York

Capabilities

- Privacy & Cybersecurity
- Privacy Litigation
- Information Security (InfoSec)
- Data Breach & Incident Response
- Technology
- Health Care Technology
- Commercial Litigation

Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Alabama
- U.S. District Court, Middle District of Alabama
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Alabama
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Michigan
- U.S. District Court, District of Colorado

Recognition

- Recognized as a Stellar Performance Lawyer by Thomson Reuters, 2026
- Ranked in *Chambers Global: World's Leading Lawyers*, Nationwide, Privacy & Data Security, 2024-2026
- Recognized in *Chambers USA, America's Leading Lawyers for Business*, Nationwide, Privacy & Data Security: Cybersecurity, USA, 2023-2025
- Selected for *Best Lawyers*® "Lawyer of the Year" for Privacy and Data Security Law, 2023, 2025
- Selected for inclusion in *Best Lawyers in America*® for:
 - Electronic Discovery and Information Management Law, 2021-2026
 - Privacy and Data Security Law, 2020-2026
- Recognized by Mid-South Super Lawyers for Business Litigation, 2016-present
- Selected for inclusion on *Birmingham Business Journal's* "Rising Star Lawyers," 2017
- Recognized by Alabama Super Lawyers for:
 - Business Litigation, 2015
 - "Rising Star" in Business Litigation, 2011-2014