
CHAMBERS GLOBAL 2024

The Leading Lawyers and Law Firms Globally

Data Protection

How lawyers are ranked

Every year we carry out thousands of in-depth interviews with clients in order to assess the reputations and expertise of business lawyers worldwide. The qualities we look for (and which determine rankings) include technical legal ability, professional conduct, client service, commercial awareness/astuteness, diligence, commitment, and other qualities most valued by the client.

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Data Protection Global: Multi-Jurisdictional

Data Protection
Global: Multi-Jurisdictional
Leading Firms
Band 1
Hogan Lovells US LLP
Band 2
Baker McKenzie
Bird & Bird
Covington & Burling LLP
DLA Piper LLP
Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP
Linklaters
Morrison Foerster
Band 3
Bristows LLP
Fieldfisher
Latham & Watkins LLP
Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
Reed Smith LLP
Sidley Austin LLP
<i>Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.</i>

Band 1

Hogan Lovells US LLP

What the team is known for Hogan Lovells provides its client base with outstanding data protection expertise globally. The law firm's integrated team spans the UK, the USA, Asia and continental Europe. The group offers:

- Comprehensive support on cross-border data transfers.
- Extensive expertise in complex GDPR matters.
- Cutting-edge advice relating to the tech, healthcare, automotive and banking industries.
- Expertise advising on international data breaches.

Strengths

"Having their analysis and recommendations brought credibility to our engagement with internal stakeholders unfamiliar with EU legislation."

"They have a deep bench of data privacy lawyers at various seniority levels in the US, China and other large Asian international markets."

Notable practitioners

Key figures within the firm's privacy and cybersecurity practice include Eduardo Ustaran in London, Marcy Wilder and Harriet Pearson in Washington, DC and Mark Parsons in Hong Kong.

Band 2

Baker McKenzie

What the team is known for Baker McKenzie's international data security practice forms a core part of the law firm's offering in key hubs across the globe. The firm has dedicated teams situated across Europe, North America and Asia. Its areas of focus include:

- GDPR and CCPA compliance as well as cross-border data transfers.
- Cybersecurity concerns including incident response and data breach matters.

Strengths

"The firm addressed the overall commercial elements of our case, taking into account the operational difficulties and business possibilities."

"For Asia, I'd say that Bakers are in a class of their own as I haven't come across others who have their range of coverage. They are practical, not theoretical and applied to business. They make it work."

Notable practitioners

Anne-Marie Allgrove, based in Sydney, is a key contact.

Bird & Bird

What the team is known for Bird & Bird's international data protection practice is highly regarded across major hubs. The law firm has highly-skilled teams based in the UK, Europe and the Asia-Pacific region. Its practice offers:

- Specialist knowledge of big data, cloud computing, IoT and AI matters.
- Considerable expertise advising on cross-border data transfers, international data breaches and GDPR compliance.
- In-depth knowledge of healthcare, advertising, financial services and tech sectors.

Strengths

"Bird & Bird have a lot of experience advising technology companies and good regional coverage."

"Bird & Bird has a particularly deep data protection bench covering expertise in various countries and niche issues."

Notable practitioners

Ruth Boardman, based in London, and Ariane Mole, who is based in Paris, co-lead the firm's data protection group.

Covington & Burling LLP

What the team is known for Covington & Burling's outstanding data protection practice in the USA

combines with highly-skilled teams in the UK, China and continental Europe. The law firm offers clients:

- Expert understanding of GDPR and CCPA.
- Full-scale support in data breaches and incident response.
- Strong understanding of AI, cloud computing and IoT.
- Cybersecurity and fintech expertise.

Strengths

"Covington's group goes above and beyond to serve us as a client."

"They have incredible knowledge of EU data protection law."

Notable practitioners

Daniel Cooper based in Brussels, David Fagan based in Washington, DC and Lindsey Tonsager based in San Francisco are key contacts.

DLA Piper LLP

What the team is known for Data protection expertise is a fundamental component of DLA Piper's global strength. The firm offers clients highly-skilled teams across the USA and EU, as well as China and Australia. The law firm offers:

- Expertise advising on GDPR and CCPA compliance issues, as well as data retention policies.
- Skilled handling of privacy and data security-related litigation.
- Experience representing financial services, media, communications, insurance and automotive clients.

Strengths

"DLA Piper's team handles complex privacy issues. The firm has a global reach and is always able to provide clear, on-point guidance."

"They have actual data protection attorneys in multiple jurisdictions who speak to one another about how their client operates. Their reach is helpful and impressive."

Notable practitioners

The firm's global co-chairs of data protection are Andrew Dyson in Leeds and Andrew Serwin in California.

Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP

What the team is known for Hunton Andrews Kurth provides its client base with outstanding data privacy knowledge in the USA, which is enhanced by the firm's London and Brussels offices. The law firm offers:

- Expertise advising on cross-border data trans-

fers and cybersecurity breaches.

- Considerable investigation and litigation capabilities.
- GDPR and EU/US Privacy Shield guidance.

Strengths

"Hunton Andrews Kurth truly has one of the best privacy practices in the world. They're practical and take the time to understand the client's business and objectives."

"The Hunton Andrews team has the expertise to provide complex guidance."

Notable practitioners

Lisa Sotto is head of the firm's data protection practice and is based in New York.

Linklaters

What the team is known for Linklaters offers clients highly-rated teams internationally, with groups based in the UK, continental Europe and Asia. The law firm's data protection practice incorporates:

- In-depth knowledge of GDPR, and ePrivacy regulation expertise.
- Experience advising on cross-border data transfers and data breach response.

Strengths

"Linklaters has some super-smart people and has been involved in high-profile investigations."

"I'm very impressed with the team's knowledge and skill level."

Notable practitioners

Brussels-based Tanguy Van Overstraeten is the firm's global head of privacy and data protection.

Morrison Foerster

What the team is known for Morrison Foerster's highly respected data protection practice combines excellent strength in the USA, the UK, continental Europe and Asia. The law firm offers clients:

- Expertise in GDPR and ePrivacy regulation and cross-border data transfers.
- Full-scale support in data breach investigations and incident response.
- In-depth understanding of the pharma and technology sectors.

Strengths

"Morrison Foerster's practitioners offer a quick and expert response. The depth on the bench of the team means they also always know the answer immediately."

Notable practitioners

Miriam Wugmeister in New York and Alex van der Wolk in Brussels are the global co-chairs of the practice.

Band 3

Bristows LLP

What the team is known for Bristows' data protection practice is highly international in scope, its key hubs in London and Brussels offering clients comprehensive support on international

mandates, enhanced by the law firm's network of contacts globally. Its key areas of focus include:

- GDPR programmes and international data transfers.
- Data compliance in emerging technologies, such as AI, cloud computing and digital health.
- Investigations, data breaches and incident response.

Strengths

"They have multiple experts with a broad range of experience in matters that range from litigation to compliance counselling."

"We use them because of their sector expertise and their understanding of the need for pragmatic privacy guidance with a commercial steer."

Notable practitioners

Mark Watts and Marc Dautlich, who are both London-based, are key contacts.

Fieldfisher

What the team is known for Fieldfisher's UK headquarters forms the centre of its data protection practice, which is significantly enhanced by the firm's integrated European network, as well as by its in-house expertise in China. The law firm provides:

- In-depth GDPR expertise, support on international data transfers and guidance in relation to data breaches.
- Comprehensive knowledge of data issues affecting the technology, pharmaceutical and financial services sectors.

Strengths

"They are excellent at guiding me on the applicability of data protection regulation, not just GDPR but across the board."

"Fieldfisher are great at imparting knowledge on different key areas of data protection law."

Notable practitioners

London-based Hazel Grant and Renzo Marchini are key contacts in the firm's privacy, security and information practice.

Latham & Watkins LLP

What the team is known for Latham & Watkins boasts data protection expertise on both sides of the Atlantic, housing effective teams in London, New York, San Francisco and Washington, DC. The firm has additional strength in Europe, notably within Germany and France. The law firm offers:

- An aptitude for multi-jurisdictional privacy issues, GDPR compliance and cybersecurity matters.
- Experience in substantial enforcement proceedings brought by regulators.
- In-depth knowledge of the technology and financial services sectors.
- Support on data security-related litigation.

Strengths

"The practitioners have deep knowledge of the regulations in the space."

"Latham & Watkins have been excellent at handling highly complicated and technical work—they deeply understand the product and data flows and add

truly valuable input to the work product."

Notable practitioners

London-based Gail Crawford is the global chair of the firm's data and technology transactions practice, and is a key contact.

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP

What the team is known for Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe stands out for its outstanding data security practice in the USA, which is enhanced by respected teams throughout Europe and expertise in Asia. The law firm offers:

- GDPR expertise and in-depth knowledge of the CCPA.
- Experience handling international data transfers and data breach crisis management.

Strengths

"Orrick's group handles sophisticated matters on a routine basis."

Notable practitioners

Boston-based Douglas Meal is a key contact.

Reed Smith LLP

What the team is known for Reed Smith has a strong data protection practice with clients benefiting from the firm's offices in the USA and the UK. The law firm offers:

- Experience in sectors such as financial services, life sciences and energy and natural resources.
- Excellent understanding of GDPR and data transfer issues.

Strengths

"Reed Smith's data privacy and security team has the expertise to assist on complex projects."

"I think they have an incredible depth of experience and knowledge and always consider issues from different perspectives."

Notable practitioners

New York-based Herb Kozlov and London-based Cynthia O'Donoghue and Elle Todd are key contacts.

Sidley Austin LLP

What the team is known for Sidley Austin's UK base is internationally recognised for its data protection expertise. Clients seeking cross-border advice will also benefit from the law firm's impressive global network. The team offers:

- In-depth knowledge of cybersecurity and full support in data breach incidents.
- Expert advice on GDPR and cross-border data transfer matters.

Strengths

"Sidley's group are highly sophisticated and have a deeply technical approach to matters."

"Sidley Austin have outstanding responsiveness and present succinct conclusions."

Notable practitioners

London-based John Casanova and William Long, as well as Alan Raul, who is based in Washington, DC, are key contacts.

Data Protection Asia-Pacific Region

Data Protection
Leading Firms
Band 1
Baker McKenzie Wong & Leow
DLA Piper Hong Kong
Hogan Lovells International LLP
Band 2
Clyde & Co Clasis Singapore
King & Wood Mallesons
Latham & Watkins LLP
Morrison Foerster
Norton Rose Fulbright
Band 3
Mayer Brown
Reed Smith Richards Butler
Band 4
Nagashima Ohno & Tsunematsu
Nishimura & Asahi
Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP
Wotton + Kearney
<i>Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.</i>

Band 1

Baker McKenzie Wong & Leow

What the team is known for Baker McKenzie has impressive regional coverage across Asia, including Australia, Singapore, the Philippines, Thailand, Japan and mainland China. The firm boasts of a prominent regulatory practice, advising multinational companies on compliance with various governments' data protection and cyber security legislation. The team are also adept at risk management, internal privacy policies, including managing employee personal data, and cyber security. It has an impressive clientele, advising companies in the technology, life sciences, hotels and financial services space.

Strengths

"For Asia, I'd say that Bakers is in a class of their own as I haven't come across others who have their range of coverage. They are practical, not theoretical and applied to business. They make it work."

"The analysis provided is practical, solution-oriented, and appropriately risk-based. The team is well versed across geographies and subject matter."

Work highlights Baker McKenzie assisted Porsche on conducting a full scale and in-depth China cybersecurity law and data protection compliance review of its operations and longer term data governance plans to keep up with changing law requirements.

Notable practitioners

Isabella Liu in Hong Kong and Andy Leck in Singapore are key contacts of the firm.

DLA Piper Hong Kong

What the team is known for DLA Piper provides a noteworthy pan-Asia offering, which is well integrated into its global practice. It demonstrates particularly strong capability in Hong Kong, Japan, Thailand, Australia and New Zealand. The firm regularly advises clients on their data compliance and audit programmes, data breach responses, including notifications and investigations, as well as data transfer. Its key clients

include Standard Chartered Bank, Levi Strauss and Stripe Payments.

Strengths

"They have actual data protection attorneys in multiple jurisdictions who speak to one another about how their client operates. Their reach is helpful and impressive."

"They have a strong data privacy team. Their advice is not purely legal but also takes into consideration commercial aspects."

Work highlights DLA Piper advised Levi Strauss on a review of its privacy and data handling practices, policies and procedures in Australia, Singapore, New Zealand, Thailand, Japan and China as part of a wider DLA Piper-led project to review its privacy arrangements across the globe.

Notable practitioners

Carolyn Bigg in Hong Kong is a key contact for clients.

Hogan Lovells International LLP

What the team is known for Hogan Lovells fields an outstanding global data protection practice, which includes a highly respected Asia-wide outfit and is especially well regarded in China. The firm has expertise across data sharing and transfers, commercialisation and the data protection aspects of technology projects, including digitisation and the introduction of AI. In addition, its extensive international team are able to handle multi-jurisdictional compliance audits and is also active in thought leadership.

Strengths

"They show deep insights into the industry practice, and it is always informative when we receive their reply."

"They have a deep bench of data privacy lawyers at various seniority levels in the US, China, and other large Asian international markets."

Work highlights Hogan Lovells advised Beijing Kuaishou Technology on various data privacy-related matters and projects in the APAC region and Latin-Americas.

Notable practitioners

A key contact for Hogan Lovells is Mark Parsons, who heads the firm's Asia-Pacific region regulatory practice and is based in Hong Kong.

Band 2

Clyde & Co Clasis Singapore

What the team is known for Clyde & Co has significant experience handling data and cyber security breaches, including assisting clients with breach response plans, crisis management, data breach notifications and investigations. The firm has notable APAC-wide coverage, particularly in Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and Hong Kong, and is skilled at coordinating responses across multiple jurisdictions. Its teams also advise clients on compliance strategy and internal policy reviews. In addition, the firm can draw on its highly-regarded insurance practice to handle cyber and financial insurance matters.

Strengths

"They are the pre-eminent incident response group in APAC. They manage more than anyone else and have the biggest team, so they can triage a fair bit more than average."

"Clyde & Co can leverage previous experience to assist with developing a successful communication strategy and determine a clear crisis response. They provided helpful information regarding potential data breach notification regimes that may apply to a global data breach."

Work highlights Clyde & Co provided Qualitas Property Partners with pre-breach advice, including a tailored data breach response plan, preparing a cyber incident communications playbook and assisting with vendor onboarding to ensure they are adopting best practice solutions.

Notable practitioners

John Moran in Sydney is a key point of contact.

King & Wood Mallesons

What the team is known for King & Wood Mallesons possess an accomplished regulatory practice and often advises clients on compliance with data, privacy and cyber security legislation across multiple jurisdictions in Asia, though the firm is singled out for its expertise in China and Australia. Its teams handle cross-border data-sharing matters, reviewing internal policies regarding personal and sensitive data as well as breach incidents, investigations and related litigation. The firm also has experience advising governmental organisations on developing its regulatory regimes.

Strengths

"They provided clear and practical advice in a fast-moving, time-pressured context. Outside of crisis mode, they are always responsive and can be relied on to deliver quality commercial advice."

"They provide timely advice and clarity of thought and grapple with complex legal issues in a commercial manner."

Work highlights King & Wood Mallesons acted for HSBC on its global data-sharing arrangements across its entities, business lines and third-party providers.

Notable practitioners

Peter Bullock is based in the Hong Kong office, and Cheng Lim in the Melbourne office are key contacts for the firm.

Latham & Watkins LLP

What the team is known for Latham & Watkins has offices in China, Singapore, South Korea and Japan and can draw on their extensive experience in the life sciences, financial services, litigation and corporate arenas to provide a comprehensive and integrated service. In addition to advising on the data protection aspects of investments and market entry, the firm regularly assists clients with their multi-jurisdictional compliance programmes, including the distribution of technology-based products in the health, fintech and media industries. The teams also have expertise in compliance with data use and breach regulations, updating companies' privacy policies and responding to investigatory proceedings.

Strengths

"Latham & Watkins have been excellent at handling highly complicated and technical work—they deeply understand the product and data flows and add truly valuable input to the work product."

"They are very professional and can pull out the key to some difficult questions. They are well versed in many legal issues and can provide expert advice on a wide range of data privacy issues."

Notable practitioners

Esther Franks in Singapore and Anthony Liu in Hong Kong are key contacts.

Morrison Foerster

What the team is known for Morrison Foerster is well regarded for handling client's privacy obligations in highly regulated sectors such as telecommunications, technology and financial services. It regularly advises on compliance with China's cyber security law, including data export security assessment issues and data localisation, as well as notable coverage of Japan and Singapore. Additionally, the firm is recognised for its track record advising on data breaches and subsequent investigations by the regulator.

Strengths

"They are able to handle a wide range of foreign laws in a speedy and comprehensive manner."

"They cover almost all global laws and regulations related to personal information and are extremely responsive."

Work highlights Morrison Foerster advised Roblox on its joint venture with Tencent and the launch of its platform in China, which involved data protection advice on facilitating payment transactions and minor protection as the platform is popular with children.

Notable practitioners

Paul McKenzie in Beijing and Chuan Sun in Shanghai are key contacts of the firm.

Norton Rose Fulbright

What the team is known for Norton Rose Fulbright advises on compliance with data protection laws concerning data transfer, data storage and new technology and data-intensive products such as AI. The team handle APAC-wide audits and reviews of clients' data policies, as well as their liaisons with regulators and responses to data access requests. The firm also assists clients with responding to cyber security and data breaches, including reporting obligations and investigations.

Strengths

"Norton Rose can provide comprehensive services surrounding the area of data privacy. Their team is always ready and able to provide not only technical advice but also market trends and regional hot topics and traps to watch out for."

"A key strength they have is their experience with incident response and data breaches."

Notable practitioners

The key contact for the firm is Anna Gamvros.

Band 3

Mayer Brown

What the team is known for The Mayer Brown team is well versed in data protection matters,

with a strong track record advising clients on compliance with existing and new legislation across the region. The firm advises on personal data requirements, data management systems and cross-border transfers. Furthermore, the firm also assists in responding to cybersecurity breaches, including litigation. It advises clients from a broad range of sectors, including media, technology, manufacturing and insurance. Its key clients include Zoom, Airport Authority Hong Kong and Warner Media.

Strengths *"Mayer Brown has extensive experience in working with technical experts, having a deep understanding of the subject matter and the ability to manage critical matters with clear articulation."*

Work highlights Mayer Brown advised Air8, a subsidiary of the Li & Fung Group, on the data privacy aspects of the establishment of its trade finance platform that will facilitate agreements in multiple jurisdictions, including China, India, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Taiwan, South Korea, Hong Kong, Vietnam and Singapore.

Notable practitioners

A key contact for the firm is Gabriela Kennedy, based in Hong Kong.

Reed Smith Richards Butler

What the team is known for Reed Smith has a strong regional and cross-disciplinary offering, operating primarily out of its China and Singapore offices. Its team consults on compliance with data and privacy regulations across Asia. The firm handles cross-border data transfers, processing and disclosures, as well as advice on third-party data. Its clientele includes fintech, media, technology and retail companies.

Strengths

"I think they have an incredible depth of experience and knowledge and always consider issues from different perspectives."

"The team has deep knowledge and understanding. They always provide outstanding services of great quality and are very responsive to client's requests."

Notable practitioners

Beijing-based Barbara Li and Bryan Tan in Singapore are key contacts for the firm.

Band 4

Nagashima Ohno & Tsunematsu

What the team is known for Nagashima Ohno & Tsunematsu is recognised for its market-leading full-service practice in Japan, in addition to its notable coverage of the region through its offices in Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam and China. The team consults on internal policy reviews and updates, data governance and cross-border transfers, as well as data-related litigation. The firm also offers counsel on the data aspects of M&A transactions and the launching of data-intensive products in the life sciences, technology and automotive industries.

Strengths

"Their expertise in privacy law area is so deep. They not only provide us with legal advice, such as interpretation of laws and precedents, but also advice for business judgement from the legal perspective."

"They get the job done on time and they do excel-

lent work."

Work highlights Nagashima Ohno & Tsunematsu advised the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development on the establishment of a data-sharing scheme to utilise medical and healthcare data collected by hospitals and other medical institutions that receive funds from the agency.

Notable practitioners

Tokyo-based Akemi Suzuki and Oki Mori are key contacts for the firm.

Nishimura & Asahi

What the team is known for Nishimura & Asahi is a leading Japanese firm with notable practices in China, Taiwan, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and Myanmar. The firm has a growing data protection practice, which already fields a number of specialists in the area who have experience with regulatory investigations and disputes, compliance across multiple jurisdictions and data localisation. Its teams also handle privacy impact assessment, data processing and internal policy reviews. The firm counts Toyota Motor, the Personal Information Protection Commission and INPEX among its key clients.

Strengths

"We have asked them some very complex questions on a range of difficult data protection matters, and they always respond comprehensively and with precision."

"We appreciate the clarity of the advice from Nishimura & Asahi, given the complex and dynamic regulatory environment for data privacy in Japan and globally."

Work highlights Nishimura & Asahi advised Toyota Motor on its company-wide privacy governance system.

Notable practitioners

Hitomi Iwase is a key contact for the firm.

Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP

What the team is known for Rajah & Tann Asia is a renowned Singapore firm with coverage of China and South-East Asia. The teams assist on a broad range of regulatory issues including multinational compliance programmes, data governance and data transfer. It is also adept at handling data breaches and investigations. The firm regularly advise clients from the financial services, insurance, manufacturing, healthcare and life sciences, retail and real estate sectors.

Strengths

"They have a good grasp of the technical legal issues but are also very practical and commercial."

"The team are very knowledgeable about the Singapore market, with a good presence in the region, and offer very clear advice."

Notable practitioners

A key contact for the firm is Steve Tan, based in Singapore.

Wotton + Kearney

What the team is known for Wotton + Kearney has a notable Australasian offering which attracts praise for its cyber security practice. Its team regularly assists insurers and their insured on data breaches, ransomware attacks and other cyber security incidents, including incident response management, liability and data loss advice and

regulatory investigations. The firm also possesses a highly regarded insurance practice and is well-placed to offer complex coverage advice.

Strengths

"I have found the Cyber team at Wotton + Kearney to be one of the best firms to work with in regards to Cyber incidents and they shine in particular

with incidents involving ransomware, nation-state attacks, or other complex incidents."

"They can understand the balance between meeting legal and regulatory obligations while also acting in a manner that understands business operational necessities. Often, with a significant data breach or during a ransomware attack, giving sound

legal advice is only half of the job – and W+K understand this."

Notable practitioners

Kieran Doyle and Joseph Fitzgerald head the firm's cyber departments in Australia and New Zealand respectively, and are key contacts.

Data Protection Europe-wide

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Europe-wide
Leading Firms
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Band 4
Allen & Overy LLP
CMS
Dentons
Fieldfisher
Osborne Clarke LLP
White & Case LLP
<i>Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.</i>

Band 1

Bird & Bird

What the team is known for Bird & Bird boasts a highly esteemed data protection offering across Europe with particular strength in the UK and Italy, as well as Germany, France and Spain. The firm is popular with global companies for data retention obligations and privacy investigations. It also assists with data transfer and cloud security matters. It is particularly active for clients in the automotive, technology, financial and consumer goods sectors, advising on GDPR implementation and compliance with new regulations. Bird & Bird also handles data protection matters relating to digitalisation, including artificial intelligence matters.

Strengths

"Bird & Bird have a lot of experience advising technology companies and good regional coverage."

Notable practitioners

Ruth Boardman in London and Ariane Mole in Paris co-lead the firm's data protection practice.

Hogan Lovells

What the team is known for Hogan Lovells comprises a large team with particularly strong offices

in the UK and Spain, with additional market presence in both Germany and Italy. The firm is highly active on Binding Corporate Rules, privacy investigations, GDPR compliance and international data transfers. It additionally advises on cybersecurity matters and on complex data issues involving new technologies such as connected cars, as well as health data matters. Hogan Lovells' notable client base spans the technology, consumer goods and automotive spaces.

Strengths

"They are a sophisticated team with deep understanding of our industry."

"The team at Hogan Lovells understands the international market and offers agile and flexible solutions to complex businesses."

Notable practitioners

Eduardo Ustaran co-heads the firm's privacy and cybersecurity practice from London. Stefan Schuppert in Munich and Gonzalo Gállego in Madrid are further key contacts for data protection matters.

Band 2

Baker McKenzie

What the team is known for Baker McKenzie has a number of strong data protection teams across Europe with exceptionally notable offices in Germany, France and Poland. The firm frequently acts for multinational clients on cross-border data transfers and the development of Binding Corporate Rules projects. It also advises on investigations and data security strategies and incident responses. The law firm is highly sought after for GDPR and ePrivacy compliance, as well as third-party data processing. It further handles data issues connected to new technologies such as artificial intelligence.

Strengths

"They have great technical capabilities, they are timely and understand urgency."

"The Baker team are able to provide practical and nuanced advice to complex technical issues. Their advice takes into account a wide range of signals, including regulatory sentiment, enforcement and the industry backdrop."

Notable practitioners

The firm's EMEA intellectual property, tech and

media group is headed by the Madrid-based José María Méndez. Other key names include Elisabeth Dehareng in Brussels and Francesca Gaudino in Milan.

Covington & Burling LLP

What the team is known for Covington & Burling boasts highly regarded teams in Brussels, London and Germany. The firm is particularly active in the pharmaceutical and technology sectors, assisting with matters concerning international data transfers, as well as privacy-related litigation and regulation. The firm handles data breaches and GDPR compliance. It is complemented by a renowned government affairs and regulatory practice, allowing for a superb grasp of the legal implications of emergent policy and legislation, including the impact of artificial intelligence technology and Brexit on data protection matters.

Strengths

"They are able to quickly understand the issues and added complexities for global multinationals."

"They have incredibly strong knowledge in the area of data protection and how it relates to our business."

"The Covington team has demonstrated not only a mastery of difficult legal analysis, but also a very strong command of novel technology and a strong understanding of clients' businesses."

Notable practitioners

Daniel Cooper, who divides his time between Dublin and Brussels, co-chairs the firm's data privacy and cybersecurity practice.

Band 3

Bristows LLP

What the team is known for London-based practice Bristows frequently acts for technology companies on social network-related data protection. The firm is well known for assisting with data breach investigations, cyber security and impact assessments. It regularly advises clients on compliance matters related to GDPR and expertise in Binding Corporate Rules. Bristows is further active in matters concerning artificial intelligence compliance and represents clients in regulation-related litigation.

Strengths

"They have a great ability to find pragmatic and simple solutions to complex issues."

"They have multiple experts with a broad range of experience in matters that range from litigation to compliance counselling."

Notable practitioners

London-based Mark Watts leads the firm's data protection team.

DLA Piper LLP

What the team is known for DLA Piper has a broad European network with exceptional offices in Belgium and France. The firm has an additional presence in Germany, Spain and the UK. Its particular areas of focus include privacy policies, with advice offered to IT sector clients on cybersecurity matters. It acts for clients from the media, pharmaceutical and consumer goods sectors on GDPR-related matters.

Strengths

"DLA Piper have a good understanding of the commercial pressures on their clients and factor this into their proposals."

Notable practitioners

Andrew Dyson in Leeds, Kristof De Vulder in Brussels, Ross McKean in London and Denise Lebeau-Marianna in Paris are key points of contact.

Latham & Watkins LLP

What the team is known for Notable international firm Latham & Watkins has reputable branches in the UK and Germany. It acts for leading corporates on multi-jurisdictional privacy issues, GDPR compliance and cybersecurity and data breach issues. The law firm also assists with data alleged regulation violations. Clients hail from the consumer goods, automotive, technology and financial services sectors.

Strengths

"It is difficult to find issues they have not thought of from different angles. Flawless analysis."

Notable practitioners

Based in London, Gail Crawford is global chair of the firm's data and technology transactions practice.

Linklaters

What the team is known for Linklaters has an outstanding team in Brussels, with an additionally strong offering in London. The law firm advises clients operating in the finance, automotive and audit spaces on data transfer solutions and privacy policies. It has further capabilities assisting with privacy matters involving new technology, such as cloud solutions, and frequently advises clients on data breach issues. The firm also assists with GDPR implementation and compliance, as well as Binding Corporate Rules.

Strengths

"The team is organised in such a manner that the required people and skills are there when I need them as a customer."

"They are good on the technical detail. They under-

stand the nuances, the complexities and the road-blocks and can find a way through the morass."

Notable practitioners

Tanguy van Overstraeten in Brussels is the firm's global head of privacy and data protection, and Julia Schönbohm, who divides her time between London and Dublin, acts as global TMT/IP head.

Band 4

Allen & Overy LLP

What the team is known for Allen & Overy has a notable data protection presence in Brussels, in addition to offices in London and Amsterdam. The firm is highly active in GDPR compliance and assisting clients with regulatory issues before the ICO. It also handles data breaches and data processing cases. Allen & Overy often acts for clients in the retail, technology and banking sectors.

Strengths

"They are a very experienced group with extensive industry knowledge and a network of individuals in countries across the world who can provide local colour on data protection issues."

Notable practitioners

Key contacts include Jane Finlayson-Brown in London, Peter Van Dyck in Brussels and Filip Van Elsen in Antwerp, who chairs the firm's global telecommunications, media and technology group.

CMS

What the team is known for CMS has prominent data protection capacity in its UK and Belgium offices. The firm handles a range of matters, including BCR applications, GDPR and investigations as well as advice on cybersecurity. It frequently acts for clients in the telecommunications and financial services industries.

Strengths

"CMS very quickly identify the key issues in the questions I pose."

"The firm translates complex matters into pragmatic advice."

Notable practitioners

Based in London, Emma Burnett heads the firm's data protection practice.

Dentons

What the team is known for Dentons has expansive reach across Europe with presence in Poland, Italy and the UK. The law firm is highly active on cross-border data protection mandates and utilises its impressive network of offices. It often advises clients on GDPR matters including compliance, as well as data protection strategies. It also offers capabilities in cybersecurity matters, including responding to major incidents.

Strengths

"Dentons have a multidisciplinary team capable of identifying situations where the interplay between different subject matters is important. They provide pragmatic advice tailored to our business."

Notable practitioners

London-based Nick Graham is global co-chair of Dentons' privacy and cybersecurity group. Marc Elshof in Amsterdam and Giangiacomo Olivi in Milan co-head the firm's European data protection team.

Fieldfisher

What the team is known for Fieldfisher has noted practices in Belgium and the UK, advising clients on Binding Corporate Rules, GDPR compliance and privacy impact assessments. It has further notable activity in data breach matters, as well as assisting with data transfer, cloud computing and privacy policies. Fieldfisher is further experienced in matters relating to the Privacy Shield. The law firm offers expertise across a number of industry sectors, including automotive, technology, medical tech, pharmaceutical and financial services.

Strengths

"It is clear that they know about how the technologies work when they provide advice. They don't need many explanations to understand the complexities of the projects."

Notable practitioners

London-based Hazel Grant heads the firm's data protection group. Olivier Proust is a key contact in Brussels.

Osborne Clarke LLP

What the team is known for Osborne Clarke's offices in the UK, Germany and Spain have a reputable data protection. The firm advises clients in regulated sectors, including financial services and energy, on subject access requests and crisis management involving the ICO. It has further expertise in data transfers and data breach claims.

Strengths

"Across their teams they have a long-standing and experienced bench of experts."

Notable practitioners

Based in Germany, Flemming Moos is a key point of contact for the firm's data privacy offering.

White & Case LLP

What the team is known for White & Case has notable offices in both the UK and Germany. It is active assisting with cloud services, data collection and transfers. The lawyers are further active advising prominent international clients on compliance with GDPR and data breaches and investigations. The law firm also handles contentious matters, including representing high-profile IT clients in data privacy-related litigation.

Strengths

"The teams I work with ask the right questions in a timely manner and provide advice which cuts to the chase and can be actioned internally easily."

Notable practitioners

Based in London, Tim Hickman leads the firm's data, privacy and cybersecurity practice and is the best point of contact.