

Melissa Lynn Purcell, JD, MBA, MSIT, CISA, CIPP/US

James Island, SC, USA | 843 - 819 - 3300 | FintechLawNerd@gmail.com – Bilingual English / Spanish

Professional Summary

Seasoned data privacy and information security specialist, legal technology innovator, and litigator with a proven track record in navigating the intersection of law and technology, regulatory compliance, and complex technology contracts and corporate transactions. Curious, driven, and passionate for analyzing and presenting nuanced legal risk issues to senior leadership in new and emerging technology and privacy arenas, demonstrating a continuous commitment to proactive risk mitigation in the ever-evolving technological landscape. Experienced in leading and managing distributed cross-functional teams, ensuring seamless communication and collaboration.

Work Experience

JPMorgan Chase & Co. | Remote / Hybrid / Travel

Senior Privacy Counsel | September 2011 – April 2024

- Data privacy and information security legal specialist/SME for technology operations.
- Provide high quality, practical legal advice to business stakeholders, senior leadership, product teams, and technology teams, for a litany of financial products, including lending, credit, loans, secured loan products, deposit accounts, and payments products.
- Manage technology risk and controls portfolio, identifying and remediating risk within technology products.
- Engage with all levels of product development to ensure privacy by design.
- Provide legal analysis on privacy subjects such as transborder data flows, the use of AI, risk with proposed changes to policies, privileged access, data breach and response, retention policies for various data types, marketing and advertising, and other areas.
- Draft and negotiate complex contracts and exhibits, NDAs, SaaS, software licensing; manage DPAs, Info Security Exhibits, and playbooks.
- Counsel internal clients regarding company policies, legal issues, and risk tolerance.
- Engage with business and technology stakeholders to find flexible and creative solutions.
- Review new technology products and features for compliance with legal and regulatory privacy and security requirements, best practices, and internal / external policies and audits.
- Collaborate on technical alternative solutions to enhance compliance and security.
- Draft and enforce internal policies and best practices related to privacy and security, including training and mentoring programs; providing guidance and support for those seeking certifications.
- Manage internal and external regulatory technology audits and tech remediation plans related to the firm's data privacy and security in the use of cloud technologies, artificial intelligence (AI), robotics (RPA), innovation, OSS/open-source software and vulnerabilities, procurements, and modernization.
- Manage engagements with third parties (vendors and government agencies) for security audits, specialty projects, and reporting.
- Manage mid-sized multi-disciplinary, distributed team, facilitating productivity and timely deliverable performance.
- Attend legal and tech conferences for emerging sci-tech, data privacy, and fintech innovations.
- Remain active in professional trade groups (such as the IAPP) to stay abreast of trends, upcoming legislation, and specialist discussions, whitepapers, and publications, including emerging arenas related to crypto, digital assets/blockchain technologies, generative AI, and biometrics.

Guardian Litigation Group | Remote/Hybrid/Travel

General Counsel | January 2024 – Present

- Manage day to day compliance needs of law firm.
- Draft and review law firm correspondence, contracts and disclosures; advise senior counsel as needed.
- Provide counsel to all employees and contractors.

- Manage corporate privacy and security policies, programs, and training.
- Identify potential areas of compliance vulnerability and risk; develop corrective action plans for mitigation and resolution; proactively plan for future avoidance and enhancement of response to similar situations.
- Collaborate with other departments as needed to ensure compliance issues are addressed, investigated, resolved, and sustained in practice.
- Respond to state/federal agency inquiries and complaints, represent the firm in any adversarial proceedings.
- Advise management of changes in applicable laws and regulations and the effect of those changes on company practices.
- Manage and participate in the development and implementation of goals, objectives, policies, and priorities of all compliance programs and activities as they relate to the firm's needs.
- Work cross-functionally to support sales, marketing, technology, and leadership team to identify and mitigate potential risks related to intellectual property, trademarks, branding, trade secrets, general legal compliance and other related issues.
- Assist senior partnership with negotiations/communications with vendors, third parties, and affiliated entities.
- Maintain a caseload and all related legal/litigation work.

Guardian Litigation Group | Remote/Hybrid/Travel
Senior Litigation Attorney - Multistate | April 2011 – January 2024

- Spearhead litigation efforts, specializing as defense counsel, encompassing negotiation, settlements, and the meticulous drafting of pleadings, motions, discovery, briefs, memoranda, and responses.
- Conduct in-depth legal research and analysis to produce well-crafted memoranda and briefs for effective defense and negotiation, contributing to a robust legal strategy.
- Maintain an exemplary communication record and build a strong rapport with opposing counsel and court personnel, fostering a collaborative and professional working environment.
- Manage extensive case load across a wide geographical location.
- Counsel clients on settlement offers versus litigation, depending on risk, circumstances, and costs.
- Draft and counsel on complex contracts such as business organization documents, NDAs, tech service contracts and work for hire documents, employment and non competes, intellectual property (trade marks, trade secrets, work for hire), commercial contracts for goods and services, with an eye on risk mitigation and litigation avoidance.
- Advise on contractual rights and obligations and contract breach scenarios.
- Counsel new business technology startups, from organization to technology contracts to product regulatory and compliance issues, and intellectual property concerns.
- Litigation areas around financial transactions, payments, and lending, including digital rights and privacy, intellectual property and trade secrets, data governance requirements, breaches, and negligence, other technology-related ancillary issues, and consumer protection and debt collection laws.

Skills

Legal Counsel, Data Privacy, Privacy By Design, Information Security, Risk, Regulatory Compliance, Contracts, Financial Products, Product Development, Artificial Intelligence, Policy & Procedure Development, Audits, Technology Compliance, Risk Mitigation, Litigation, Legal Research, Legal Writing, Pleadings, Briefs, Discovery, Case Management, Data Breach and Response, Communications, Procurement, SaaS, Licensing

Education

Doctorate of Jurisprudence | OHIO NORTHERN UNIVERSITY
Master of Science in Information Technology | PURDUE UNIVERSITY
Master of Business Administration | THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
Bachelor of Arts (Accounting & Finance; Mathematics) | THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
Data Privacy & Security Law Specialization | HARVARD BUSINESS SCHOOL (2025)

Certifications

**AWS DevOps Professional, AWS Solutions Architect, AWS Developer, AWS Cloud Practitioner
Certified Information Security Auditor (CISA)
Certified Information Privacy Professional (CIPP/US) (CIPP/E in progress)**

Professional Affiliations

**The American Bar Association, The Ohio State Bar Association, The South Carolina Bar Association
The Charleston Bar Association, The Columbus Bar Association, Franklin County Trial Lawyers
ISACA Member
IAPP Member**

Pro Bono Associations

**Electronic Frontier Foundation Cooperating Attorney
Legal Aid Society of Columbus
South Carolina Legal Services**