



Our Artificial Intelligence Capabilities



“Debevoise provides insightful, strategic and highly value-added advice, and is a true partner to us, fully integrating into our team and working seamlessly on transactions.”

“Debevoise exercises brilliant judgment and their experience and regulatory contacts are unmatched.”

Chambers USA

We are currently representing over 60 clients in AI-related matters, including several companies in each of the following industries: financial services, insurance, private equity, technology, healthcare, consumer goods, and media.

Our Artificial Intelligence Group is led by a core team of lawyers who are primarily focused on AI issues, but also includes lawyers who specialize in privacy, cybersecurity, intellectual property, litigation, and regulatory compliance. This cross-departmental team works together seamlessly to help clients safely adopt high-value AI applications, mitigate potential legal and reputational risks, respond to regulatory inquiries, and defend AI-related claims.

The AI team is led by Avi Gesser who has been working on AI-legal issues for over 10 years, and in 2022, was named an “AI Visionary” by Relativity, a leading software developer, in its first annual list featuring leaders in AI.

Our thought leadership on AI issues can be found on the **Debevoise Data Blog**, which has over 80 articles and webcasts on AI governance and compliance – topics we have writing about extensively since early 2020.

“[A] fantastic ability to anticipate issues and a fantastic ability to work with in-house counsel in an extremely collaborative way.”

Chambers USA

“They have an unusual concentration of legal talent, from senior partners to associates. It is difficult to find a firm with such a number of respected individuals in this field.”

Chambers Global and Europe

Select Representations

- **A large private equity firm** in responding to a detailed SEC exam request relating to its use of AI and alternative data.
- **A large financial institution** in connection with a federal bank supervisory exam concerning artificial intelligence and data governance.
- **Several financial services, technology and social media companies, including Meta**, in development of their AI governance programs, including policies and procedures, AI governing committees, trainings, board briefings, and AI tabletop exercises.
- **Several insurance and private equity firms** in mapping their AI governance and compliance against anticipated regulatory requirements.
- **SIFMA** in drafting AI regulation in response to a request by the U.S. Department of Commerce, and in drafting a comment letter on the SEC proposed rule relating to predictive data analytics.
- **Dozens of companies** in developing policies on the use of generative AI, including creating lists of approved and prohibited uses, establishing a committee to review requests for approvals of new use cases and tools, developing criteria for assessing new use cases and tools, creating a pilot program for testing new use cases and tools, conducting risk assessments for particular AI applications, establishing a methodology for bias testing, creating AI vendor risk management frameworks, and conducting training and briefings for senior executives and boards on AI risks and benefits.

We offer proactive, holistic counsel on:

Corporate Governance

- Establishing AI Governance Committee and AI Centers of Excellence, including committee charters, roles and responsibilities, risk rating criteria, mitigation options.
- Board/Executive Briefings and AI Training, including fiduciary duties, oversight obligations, and regulatory compliance.
- Drafting Policies on Generative AI, including the criteria for testing, evaluating and approving new AI tools and use cases.

Risk Assessments, Regulatory, and Compliance

- AI Risk Assessments and Model Testing
- AI Regulation Tracking
- Regulator Engagement
- Regulatory Enforcement and Examinations
- Intellectual Property and Contractual Risk Assessments and Protections
- Mock AI Events, Tabletop Exercises, and AI Incident Response Preparations
- AI-Related Litigation

Corporate and Transactional

- M&A AI Due Diligence
- AI Licenses and IP Advising
- Vendor Diligence and Contractual Term Drafting and Negotiation

Your Team

Avi Gesser



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Avi Gesser is Co-Chair of the firm's Data Strategy & Security Group. His practice focuses on advising major companies on a wide range of cybersecurity, privacy and artificial intelligence matters. He has represented global financial services firms, private equity firms, insurance companies, hedge funds and media organizations in large-scale ransomware attacks, cyber breaches by nation-states, and regulatory investigations relating to the use of artificial intelligence. Mr. Gesser regularly advises boards and senior executives on governance, risk, and liability issues relating to cybersecurity and AI. Mr. Gesser is also a primary author of the firm's Data Blog and the architect of the Firm's Data Portal, an online tool that helps clients quickly assess and comply with their cyber breach notification obligations and tracks AI regulatory developments.

Erez Liebermann



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Erez Liebermann is a litigation partner and a member of the firm's Data Strategy & Security Group. His practice focuses on advising major businesses on a wide range of complex, high-impact cyber-incident response matters and on data-related regulatory requirements. With decades of experience in data issues as a litigator, federal prosecutor and senior in-house counsel at a global insurance company, Mr. Liebermann regularly advises clients at the C-suite and board level on building strategies to reduce their data-related regulatory and reputational risks, and on navigating high-profile government investigations following data incidents. He is also widely acknowledged as a leading cybersecurity and data privacy professional and is ranked among the leading lawyers by *Chambers USA* (2022), where clients note that he is "one of the most intelligent attorneys, [and] very practical and great to work with."

Megan K. Bannigan



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Megan K. Bannigan is a partner in the Intellectual Property Group, representing clients across a range of industries including trademark, copyright, false advertising, rights of publicity, design patents, licensing and other contract disputes, artificial intelligence and related matters. Ms. Bannigan has extensive trial experience, helping to secure an over \$20 million jury verdict for client Learning Annex in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, among other trial victories. She also has experience representing clients before the United States Patent and Trademark Office, the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board and the International Trade Commission. Recognized by *Chambers*, *Managing Intellectual Property's* IP STARS, *The World Trademark Review* and named a Rising Star in 2019 by both *Law360* and *The Legal 500*, Ms. Bannigan also regularly writes and speaks on intellectual property-related issues and is an adjunct professor of Fashion Law and other classes.

Charu A. Chandrasekhar



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Charu A. Chandrasekhar is a litigation partner based in the New York office and a member of the firm's White Collar & Regulatory Defense and Data Strategy & Security Groups. Her practice focuses on securities enforcement and government investigations defense and cybersecurity regulatory counseling and defense. Prior to joining the firm, Ms. Chandrasekhar served as an Assistant Regional Director in the SEC's Division of Enforcement and as the Chief of the Division's Retail Strategy Task Force. Ms. Chandrasekhar also served as a Senior Advisor and Senior Counsel in the Division of Enforcement's Market Abuse Unit.

Henry Lebowitz



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Henry Lebowitz is a corporate partner and a member of the Intellectual Property and Technology Transactions Group, focusing on leading the IP and technology aspects of mergers and acquisitions, financings, capital markets and other corporate transactions. Mr. Lebowitz has advised companies on complex transactions, litigation, portfolio development and other IP matters in an array of industries. He also regularly assists clients in evaluating patents, trademarks and other intellectual property, developing effective IP portfolios, assessing the merits of IP-related litigation and other disputes and implementing strategies to avoid or favorably resolve such disputes.

Jim Pastore



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Jim Pastore is a litigation partner and a member of the firm's Data Strategy & Security practice. His practice focuses on privacy, cybersecurity and artificial intelligence issues. Mr. Pastore is recognized by *Chambers USA* and *The Legal 500 US* for his cybersecurity work, and has been included in *Benchmark Litigation's* 40 and Under Hot List which recognizes attorneys 40 and under with outstanding career accomplishments. Named as a Cybersecurity Trailblazer by *The National Law Journal*, Mr. Pastore has also been named three times to *Cybersecurity Docket's* "Incident Response 30," a list of the best and brightest data breach response attorneys. Prior to rejoining Debevoise in 2014, Mr. Pastore served for five years as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District of New York where he spent most of his time as a prosecutor with the Complex Frauds Unit and Computer Hacking and Intellectual Property Section.

Matthew Kelly



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Matthew Kelly is a counsel and a member of the Data Strategy & Security Group. His practice focuses on advising the firm's growing number of clients on matters related to AI governance, compliance and risk management, and on data privacy. Mr. Kelly has extensive experience advising public companies, and companies across the financial services sector, on internal investigations and regulatory matters involving data strategy, governance and compliance. He has advised clients on the usage of quantitative modeling tools and data-driven operations, and on the design and implementation of post-Dodd-Frank model governance frameworks. Mr. Kelly has also led multiple advisory and regulatory matters related to algorithmic trading and data governance for broker-dealer and investment advisory clients, including SEC, FINRA, and New York Attorney General investigations.

Johanna Skrzypczyk

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Johanna Skrzypczyk is a counsel in the Data Strategy and Security practice of Debevoise & Plimpton LLP. Her practice focuses on advising AI matters and privacy-oriented work, particularly related to the California Consumer Privacy Act. Prior to joining Debevoise, Ms. Skrzypczyk served as Assistant Attorney General in the Bureau of Internet and Technology at the New York Attorney General's Office. In this role, she helped draft the amendments to New York's data breach law (known as the SHIELD Act), investigated, litigated, and negotiated the landmark settlement of an action against a national corporation regarding credential stuffing, one of the very few regulatory actions to address this widespread type of cyberattack, and co-led an initiative involving potential discriminatory impacts of AI. Ms. Skrzypczyk also worked on matters involving consumer privacy, data security and virtual markets.

Robert Maddox

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Robert Maddox is a member of our Cybersecurity & Data Privacy practice as well as our White Collar & Regulatory Defense and International Dispute Resolution Groups. His practice focuses on complex multi-jurisdictional investigations, disputes and cybersecurity matters. Prior to entering private practice, Robert interned on the defense team of Thomas Lubanga Dyilo, the first individual to stand trial before the International Criminal Court in The Hague. Robert advises clients on cybersecurity and data protection issues in the EU, including financial services reporting obligations. He publishes and speaks on these topics frequently. Robert's recent articles have been featured in Strategic Risk and Global Reinsurance and his views on the incoming EU General Data Protection Regulation were featured by The Deal.

Martha Hirst

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Martha Hirst is an associate based in the London office. She is a member of the firm's Data Strategy & Security practice and the White Collar & Regulatory Defense Group. Ms. Hirst has experience conducting international anti-corruption investigations for large multinational companies. Her practice has a particular focus on multijurisdictional matters covering, amongst other things, anti-corruption legislation, cybersecurity and data protection matters and economic sanctions. Ms. Hirst also advises clients on high-value, complex international litigation matters.

Tigist Kassahun



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Tigist Kassahun is a corporate associate and a member of the firm's Intellectual Property and Mergers & Acquisitions Groups, as well as a frequent collaborator with the firm's Data Strategy & Security practice. Ms. Kassahun is experienced in leading intellectual property and technology transactions and advising clients on related matters, including intellectual property protection, data privacy and cybersecurity. She regularly represents a broad range of clients across the technology, financial services, arts, telecommunications, private equity, entertainment, healthcare and insurance industries.

Jarett Lewis



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Jarett Lewis is an associate in the firm's Litigation Department. Mr. Lewis' practice focuses on cybersecurity, data privacy, and data and AI governance. Jarrett also collaborates with the firm's Intellectual Property and Technology Transactions Group, where he assists with data-related commercial transactions and agreements.



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