



Cyber Security & Data Privacy

2022



PROFILED:

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KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP



Cyber Security &
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PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY

Emma L. Flett is a partner in Kirkland's technology and IP transactions practice and heads the London team. Her practice is focused on complex commercial and corporate transactions, and carve outs and business separations in which technology, IP and data play a key role. She also counsels clients on data protection compliance, including with regard to the EU and UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), and brings EU and UK experience to Kirkland's cyber security and data privacy practice. Prior to joining Kirkland, she was a lawyer at Clifford Chance LLP, where she also trained.

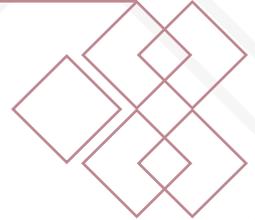
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Q&A WITH EMMA L. FLETT

**Looking back, have you fulfilled the ambitions and aspirations you set for yourself early in your career?**

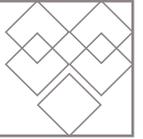
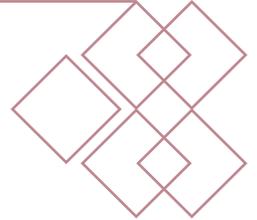
◆ I joined Kirkland 12 years ago from Clifford Chance. Looking back, it has been quite the journey, but I would not change it for the world. Kirkland's London office had only 80 lawyers in 2010 and now has over 450. With such tremendous growth, I have had a lot of opportunities, but also the ambition to grow a practice that was integral to and strategically important to the firm on a global basis. The technology and IP transactions practice in London has grown from two to 16 lawyers under my leadership. I am proud of my career to date but fully recognise that I could not have achieved anything without an incredible team and support from the firm. If you were to tell a younger me what I would be doing today I would never have believed you. But have my ambitions been fulfilled? I am not sure they ever will be completely.

In what ways do you endeavour to support the career development of your colleagues rising through the ranks?

◆ Kirkland has a fantastic and unique platform, and when you combine that with the right personality types, drive, determination and legal talent, the sky is the limit. I am grateful for the opportunity and mentorship that I have had, and I make it my mission that others in the team have the same opportunity to thrive. I mentor partners and associates in London and in the US and make it a priority to help them in building their personal brands, and the brand of the team and the firm. The reintegration of colleagues following maternity leave is also important, which as a mum, I know can be hard.

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**Reflecting on your area of expertise, how do you see this sphere of the market shaping up over the coming months? Are any exciting trends or developments on the horizon?**

◆ Data privacy and cyber security is a hot topic and continues to grow in importance. It impacts multiple disciplines across the firm, from fund formation, deal process and due diligence, litigation discovery, restructuring and ESG, as well as the compliance of our client base and their portfolio companies. It is also of global relevance, across our EU, US and Asia offices, given the extraterritorial reach of the GDPR. For businesses to truly succeed, it is vital for individuals to trust how their data is being used; it is the ‘new oil’ after all. This need for trust, combined with increased awareness, headline-grabbing fines, business model impact, board-level issues and an ever-changing privacy landscape, means this is just the tip of the iceberg. I am excited to see what is next, with additional legislation slated and UK post-Brexit strategy on top. Watch this space. ■

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REPRESENTATIVE ENGAGEMENTS

- ◆ Advised Partners Group on the acquisition of Forterro, a leading pan-European software services provider.
- ◆ Advised Vista Equity Partners on the EU and UK data protection aspects of its acquisition, alongside Evergreen Coast Capital Corporation, of Citrix Systems, Inc. for approximately \$16.5bn.
- ◆ Advised GIC on its \$525m joint venture with Equinix to develop and operate two data centres in South Korea.
- ◆ Advised a consortium and KKR on the \$15bn all-cash acquisition of CyrusOne Inc. a premier global data centre REIT.
- ◆ Advised Vista Equity Partners and its portfolio company Mindbody, on the acquisition of ClassPass.
- ◆ Advised NortonLifeLock on its \$25bn combination with Avast.
- ◆ Advised Blackstone and the consortium consisting of Scape Living and iQSA, on the £969m recommended cash offer for GCP Student Living plc.

