



Cyber Security for Law Firms

No one is immune. Every industry and business sector—including the legal profession—is a target for hackers and cyber criminals. Just ask the leaders of the prominent businesses and government agencies that have been victimized in recent years.

What's more, by the very nature of what we do, law firms accumulate highly sensitive and confidential information from clients. Law firms are increasingly being requested to allow their lawyers to work remotely (and, often, on personal, possibly unsecure devices), while at the same time being required to verify the integrity and security of their networks and information systems. Like participants in other industries, law firms also are subject to breach notification laws. And the dollars and cents do not stop there. Clients increasingly are mandating their outside counsel meet strict standards for data security.

But law firm practice groups devoted to helping law firms manage cyber-related risk and address breaches are few. And those that do exist often are set up to address only some of the important issues at play.

Hinshaw's Cyber Security for Law Firms practice group is the exception. The practice includes members from Hinshaw's leading lawyers' professional liability and risk management, legal malpractice defense, class action defense, and insurance law practices as well as others from the firm's robust intellectual property and technology, business and commercial litigation, and commercial transactions groups. The Cyber Security for Law Firms group has both the comprehensive tools and the vast experience needed to help law firms protect data; prevent or limit exposure to cyber security breach claims; and, where it is too late for that, to successfully defend them.

Services Available to Help Avoid a Breach

- Compliance counseling and breach prevention
- Review and evaluation of a law firm's data inventory and treatment, including sensitive/confidential information and existing vendor agreements
- Drafting, evaluating and updating privacy and security policies for:
 - Cloud computing/storage
 - Email and wifi
 - Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)
 - Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH)
 - Mobile device management and "bring your own device" (BYOD)
 - Network security
 - Physical security

Service Area Contact

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Related Services

[Consultant/Coach for the Profession®](#)

[Counselors for the Profession](#)

[Law Firm Cyber Alerts](#)

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[Litigators for the Profession®](#)



- Privacy notices and policies
- Review and provide advice on cyber insurance policies to ensure adequate and appropriate coverage
- Review and evaluation of data destruction and disposal practices
- Evaluation of existing cyber liability coverages and options
- Preparation of incident response plans and evaluation of existing plans
- Counsel on applicable ethical, privacy and data security considerations
- Coordination of necessary security, forensic and incident response vendors
- Coordination of vulnerability and penetration testing, assessment of outcomes and development of remediation strategies
- Development and provision of education and training for attorneys and employees

In the Event of a Breach

- Coordination of the response to achieve compliance with applicable ethical obligations and data breach notification laws
- Coordination of initial incident assessments, the securing of networks, and evidence preservation
- Counsel on ethical issues related to data incidents and data breaches
- Coordination of vendors, call centers, and third-party forensic teams
- Lead/assistance with crisis management efforts
- Counsel on remediation strategies
- Defend litigation/government investigations and develop regulatory responses
 - Privacy/consumer class action litigation
 - Regulatory investigations
 - Legal malpractice suits
 - Lawyer disciplinary actions

Nationally Recognized Leader in Comprehensive Law Firm Representation

A Leader in Ethics and Professional Responsibility Law and Legal Malpractice Defense

Hinshaw is a firm of first choice in providing comprehensive risk management, regulatory and litigation defense representation to law firms, whether those firms are among the world's largest, midsized outfits or boutiques. Among our honors and recognitions, Hinshaw was ranked by *U.S. News - Best Lawyers* as the 2014 "Law Firm of the Year" in the area of Ethics and Professional Responsibility Law. And as noted in the *Law360* article "6 Firms to Have on Speed Dial If Malpractice Trouble Hits," Hinshaw is one of the "few firms [that] have emerged as the go-to advocates for lawyers who find themselves facing a potentially devastating complaint" and is "a leader in defending legal malpractice cases."

Host of the Industry-Leading Legal Malpractice & Risk Management Conference

Hinshaw also has hosted since 2002, the Legal Malpractice & Risk Management Conference (LMRM), the premier event focused on current and important developments in the law and litigation of malpractice claims, legal malpractice, insurance and risk management strategies. Attendees and speakers include leaders and general counsel from the most prestigious law firms and companies. Presentations in past years have included, "Enhancing Your Data Protection and Mitigating Your Cyber Risk," "On the Horizon: Enterprise Risk Management—Welcome to Your Future," and "Maintaining Your Firm's On-Line Reputation—Ethical and Liability Issues in the Internet Age."



Home to Leading Attorneys in the Field

In addition to providing advice, counsel and representation to law firms, and hosting the LMRM, our attorneys are internationally respected scholars and leaders in the field of the business of law, law firm risk management, law firm and lawyer duties to clients, and legal malpractice. Our team includes past presidents of the Association for Professional Responsibility Lawyers and state defense bars, and leaders of public entities addressing professional responsibility and conduct. We also have authored or significantly contributed to leading publications—such as the leading book on risk management, "Risk Management: Survival Tools for Law Firms" (American Bar Association)—and have handled more than 6,500 hotline consultations in the areas of risk management and professional responsibility.

Leading Insurance Attorneys Who Can Help Secure and Ensure Sound Coverage

Hinshaw also has one of the most accomplished and well-respected insurance services practices in the United States. Our experience helping draft policies, including cyber insurance policies, and litigate coverage disputes gives us valuable insights in representing insureds seeking adequate and appropriate insurance. What we bring to bear is an intimate understanding of well-drafted and effective policies and clauses, a knowledge of policies and clauses that have not withstood scrutiny, and an appreciation for the cyber insurance marketplace.

Experience

The Case of the Missing Laptop

- Hinshaw was contacted by a law firm after one of its partners had an unencrypted laptop computer—which contained personally identifying information of individuals residing in multiple states—stolen. We: counseled the law firm on reporting the incident to its insurance carrier and to law enforcement; drafted a breach notification letter; advised on reporting obligations to state officials; and recommended and worked with the firm to hire a vendor to offer identity theft protection, issued the breach notifications, and set up a call center to handle questions from those persons who received the notification.

Extortion Attempt

- Hinshaw's Cyber Security for Law Firms practice group worked with a client that was the victim of an extortion attempt, which threatened the public release of personally identifiable information in the client's possession involving thousands of third parties, which we believed was sent by a former employee. We: assisted the client in making contact with federal law enforcement; worked with the client to hire forensic experts to investigate the incident and to confirm that its network was secure; coordinated the forensic evaluation of the client's network with the law enforcement investigation; hired a third-party vendor to offer credit monitoring and to set up a call center; and drafted the required breach notifications under state and federal (HIPAA) law.

Network Intrusion

- After being contacted by a client's information technology department about a network intrusion originating from the Far East, we worked with the client to contain the intrusion, and arranged for forensic security experts to meet with the client the following day. The forensic security experts eradicated the threat to the client's system, and blocked all email traffic coming from that sector of the Internet without the loss or exfiltration of any data.

News

[Annmarie Giblin Explains How Treating Data as Property Could Open the Door to Novel Data Litigation Claims](#)

May 12, 2022



[Hinshaw Submits Comments to California Attorney General Regarding Proposed California Consumer Privacy Act Regulations](#)

December 17, 2019

[Mollie Kugler and Alyssa Johnson Discuss Law Firm Cyber Liability Exposure in DRI's For the Defense](#)

November 8, 2019

[DRI Honors Hinshaw's Steven M. Puiszis with Louis B. Potter Lifetime Professional Service Award](#)

October 21, 2019

[As Severity of Legal Malpractice Claims Rise, LawyeringLaw.com Provides Risk Management Tools and Services for Lawyers and Law Firms](#)

June 18, 2019

[Steve Puiszis Authors Comprehensive Overview of EU's GDPR Privacy Law in Journal of the Professional Lawyer](#)

January 24, 2019

[Steve Puiszis Addresses Cyber Risks Associated with Lawyers Making Their Email Addresses Public](#)

December 13, 2018

[Steve Puiszis Cited in ABA Formal Opinion 483 on the Ethical Responsibility of Lawyers Following a Cyberattack](#)

November 12, 2018

[Steve Puiszis Discusses the MSBA Opinion in Light of GDPR's "Right to be Forgotten" in Bloomberg Law](#)

October 19, 2018

[Bloomberg Discusses Steve Puiszis' Panel Presentation on "Ethics of Data Breach Reaction" at ABA Professional Responsibility Conference](#)

June 13, 2018

[Media Coverage of Steve Puiszis' ABA Panel Presentation on Protecting Privileged Information in U.S. Border Searches](#)

August 25, 2017

[Steve Puiszis Quoted in Bloomberg Article on NYC Bar Guidance Regarding U.S. Border E-Device Searches and Client Confidentiality](#)

August 8, 2017

[Steven Puiszis Featured in Article Discussing the Growing Importance of Law Firm CPOs and Data Security Officers](#)

August 1, 2017

[Steven Puiszis to Serve as Program Chair for the NFJE Judicial Symposium](#)

July 13, 2017

[Steven Puiszis Quoted in Bloomberg BNA Article about WannaCry Ransomware Attack](#)

May 19, 2017

[Steven Puiszis Profiled in Article on his Presentation on Cyber Security at the IDC Conference](#)

October 11, 2016

[Steven Puiszis Authors Bloomberg BNA Article on How Technology is Redefining Competence](#)

April 12, 2016

[Steven Puiszis Quoted in Bloomberg BNA Article Discussing Data Breaches in Law Firms](#)

March 9, 2016

[Steven Puiszis Discusses New York's Proposed Cybersecurity Rules for Banks and Insurers](#)

November 16, 2015



Events

22nd Annual LMRM Conference

March 7 – 9, 2023

Chicago

21st Annual Legal Malpractice & Risk Management Conference

March 1 – 3, 2022

20th Annual Legal Malpractice & Risk Management Conference

An All New Virtual Experience

March 2 – 4, 2021

Virtual

Joanna Storey to Discuss Legal Ethics at Bar Association of San Francisco Webinar

January 26, 2021

Joanna Storey to Discuss Legal Ethics in a Remote World at California Lawyers Association Webinar

December 16, 2020

2020 Legal Malpractice & Risk Management Conference

March 3 – 5, 2020

The Ritz-Carlton Chicago

Hinshaw's Judy Selby to Present on Cybersecurity for Law Firms

March 3, 2020

Mineola, New York

Steve Puiszis to Discuss Implications of Evolving Technology on Legal Industry at ABA Young Professionals Event

June 6, 2019

223 South Wacker | Chicago, Illinois

2019 Legal Malpractice & Risk Management Conference

March 5 – 7, 2019

Westin Chicago River North

Steve Puiszis to Discuss GDPR and Data Privacy Laws at ABA TECHSHOW

February 28, 2019

Chicago, Illinois

Hinshaw Attorneys Scheduled to Present at DRI Cybersecurity and Data Privacy Seminar

September 7, 2018

Loews Hotel | Chicago, Illinois

Steve Puiszis to Discuss Cybersecurity Awareness in Presentation at NOBC Annual Meeting

August 2, 2018

Chicago, Illinois

Steve Puiszis to Discuss Data Privacy Challenges Impacting the Legal Industry in Thomson Reuters Sponsored Presentation

May 23, 2018

Chicago, Illinois

2018 Legal Malpractice & Risk Management Conference

March 5, 2018

320 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, IL



[Steve Puiszis to Co-Present ABA Webinar on Attorney Ethics and Data Security Obligations](#)
September 20, 2017
Webinar

[Steven Puiszis to Present at ABA 2017 Annual Meeting](#)
August 11, 2017
New York City

[2017 Legal Malpractice & Risk Management Conference: EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION NOW AVAILABLE](#)
March 1, 2017
320 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, IL

[Steven Puiszis to Speak at IDC/MODL Defense Law Seminar](#)
September 29, 2016

[Steven Puiszis to Speak at Part II of the 2016 Symposium on the Law, Policy, and Implementation of Legal Protections for Data Management](#)
April 12, 2016
The John Marshall Law School

[Register Now for the 2016 Legal Malpractice & Risk Management Conference](#)
March 2, 2016

[Steven Puiszis to Speak at ABA Webinar "Bring Your Own Device \(BYOD\): Ethical and Practical Risks/Rewards of Using Smartphones & Tablets for Work"](#)
January 13, 2016
Webinar

[Steven Puiszis to Present Amendments to the Federal Rules on Discovery at a DRI Live Webcast](#)
December 10, 2015
Live Webcast

[Hinshaw Attorneys Tom McGarry and Steve Puiszis to Speak at the DRI Webinar "Risk Management for Law Firms: How to Prevent Legal Malpractice Claims"](#)
November 19, 2015

[Philip R. Kujawa and Steven M. Puiszis to Present at the Honeywell Annual Connect Conference](#)
October 23, 2015
Scottsdale, Arizona

Publications

["Bonus Payment" Phishing Emails Are Seeking New Ransomware Victims](#)
February 3, 2022
Law Firm Cyber Alerts

[Practical Tips to Mitigate the Risk of Being Hacked by Fake IRS or Google Voice Scams](#)
November 3, 2021
Law Firm Cyber Alerts

[Practical Tips to Help You Avoid Taking the Bait of COVID-19 Loan Phishing Scams](#)
January 15, 2021
Law Firm Cyber Alerts

[Practical Tips to Mitigate Legal Risk When Videoconferencing](#)
December 11, 2020
Lawyers for the Profession®



[How to Guard Against Proliferating COVID-19 Scams](#)

March 18, 2020

Cyber Alert

[Protect Yourself and Your Firm Against Password Spray Attacks](#)

April 9, 2019

Cyber Alert

[Guarding Against the Chinese Domain Name Email Scam](#)

March 8, 2019

Cyber Alert

[GDPR White Paper Reviews Risk Management Issues for U.S. Law Firms](#)

February 25, 2019

Hinshaw Alert

[How to Guard Against Impersonation Phishing Attacks](#)

February 12, 2019

Cyber Alert

[Owners of Apple Devices Like iPhones Advised to Turn Off FaceTime App Until Apple Issues a Patch](#)

January 29, 2019

Cyber Alert

[The Marriott Breach: What to do if Your Information Has Been Compromised](#)

December 21, 2018

Cyber Alert

[What a Famous Hip-Hop Artist Can Teach About Cyber Security](#)

November 27, 2018

Cyber Alert

[Avoid Becoming Another Hacking Statistic: A Primer on Foreign Domain Extensions](#)

November 8, 2018

Cyber Alert

[Avoiding Social Engineering Scams](#)

October 16, 2018

Cyber Alert

[Your Mobile is Not Just a Phone — It's a Handheld Mini-Computer Subject to Attack](#)

October 11, 2018

Cyber Alert

[Beware of Potential "Vishing" Scams](#)

October 9, 2018

Cyber Alert

[Personal Information is being used in a New Cyber Extortion Scam](#)

August 1, 2018

Cyber Alert

[Consider Resetting \(or, at a minimum, Rebooting\) Your Routers to Disable Latest Malware](#)

June 4, 2018

Cyber Alert

[Dual Factor Authentication Can Be Hacked By Phishing](#)

May 16, 2018



Cyber Alert

[GDPR Implications for U.S. Law Firms](#)

March 28, 2018

Cyber Alert

[Social Engineering Fraud](#)

March 14, 2018

Cyber Alert