Since the second edition of this Field Guide went to print in 2015, global privacy laws changed significantly. The European Union finally updated its data protection laws for the first time in more than 20 years. In 2016, the EU enacted its General Data Protection Regulation, which will become effective in 2018. The EU Court of Justice invalidated the adequacy decision regarding data transfers to the United States under the Safe Harbor Program in 2015 and the EU Commission approved a successor program in 2016, the EU-U.S. Privacy Shield. Meanwhile, data protection authorities have increased their data protection audit and enforcement activities. Russia, Kazakhstan Indonesia, China and Germany enacted laws according to which companies are required to store personal data locally within better reach of local government agencies. In the United States, plaintiffs’ lawyers have brought numerous class action lawsuits based on data privacy and security claims against companies and the government; the U.S. Federal Trade Commission successfully defended in court its creation of data privacy and security law through complaints and consent decrees that the Commission based on general unfair competition laws; and the State of California, where most major information technology companies are headquartered, has been actively passing new laws in response to perceived new threats and abuses. These developments required numerous edits to this Field Guide even though much of the practical guidance and the general direction remain steady. The author is grateful for the interest and feedback regarding the first and second editions of this book and looks forward to continued dialogue with users of this Field Guide.

The author thanks Bethany Lewis, CIPP/US, CIPP/E, Privacy Project Manager, The Nielsen Company, for valuable edits and contributions to the third edition of this Field Guide, and all contributors to previous editions, including Dr. Ron A. Dolin, Diana Francis, Prof. Susan Freiwald, Emmanuel Fua, Sarah Jain, Dr. Sebastian Kraska and Dr. Christoph Rittweger. The author takes sole responsibility for any errors and omissions.
Lothar Determann practices and teaches international data privacy, commercial and intellectual property law. He is admitted to practice law in Germany and California and a partner with Baker & McKenzie LLP in San Francisco and Palo Alto, California. He has been a member of the Association of German Public Law Professors since 1999 and teaches Data Privacy Law, Computer Law and Internet Law at Freie Universität Berlin (since 1994), University of California, Berkeley School of Law (Boalt Hall, since 2004), Hastings College of the Law (since 2010), Stanford Law School (2011) and University of San Francisco School of Law (2000 to 2005). He has authored more than 100 articles and treatise contributions and four other books, including California Privacy Law – Practical Guide and Commentary (2nd E. 2017).