

About this third edition, contributors and the author

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.

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