

JOEL E. BLUMENFELD

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SUMMARY

A dynamic business leader, privacy professional and technology attorney with experience building and managing privacy programs for Fortune 1000 companies. Diverse qualifications include CIPP/US, CIPP/E, and CIPM certifications, as well as a Master of Laws in Information Technology and Privacy Law. Applies a pragmatic approach to risk management, including compliance with GDPR, CPRA, HIPAA, PIPL, and related privacy laws in the US and Globally. Leverages polished communication skills, professional experience, and contagious enthusiasm to ensure a corporate culture that values privacy.

EXPERIENCE

ABBVIE

North Chicago, Illinois

Senior Counsel, Privacy & Data Security

2024-Present

Strategized and counseled the organization on complex privacy and data security matters, delivering legal guidance regarding a wide range of privacy and data security issues. Advised key cross-functional stakeholders regarding emerging privacy laws, regulatory trends, and technology issues such as artificial intelligence.

- Served as lead attorney for global data security and AI privacy matters, as well as for privacy matters related to therapeutics, aesthetics, and commercial operations in the US.
- Orchestrated a comprehensive gap analysis of emerging US State privacy laws. Developed strategic roadmap comprised of implementation recommendations designed to foster compliance priorities through 2026.
- Architected innovations in privacy-by-design in support of the organization's AI governance program. Served as a member of the AI Task Force and AI / ML review board.

GRAINGER

Lake Forest, Illinois

Assistant General Counsel, Privacy & Technology

2023-2024

Spearheaded the Grainger Privacy Program as its head of privacy, architecting and leading the execution of comprehensive strategic roadmaps to embed privacy-by-design into the organization's core business processes across the US, Europe, APAC, Canada, and LATAM. Established and co-led Grainger's AI governance team. Supported the organization's cybersecurity program and incident response initiatives from a legal perspective.

- Directed a team of privacy professionals in the operational execution of the privacy program, fostering a culture of privacy-forward thinking and guiding cross-functional teams towards achieving strategic privacy objectives.
- Provided legal and strategic counsel to the CISO, CLO, CTO, and others on cybersecurity issues, such as compliance with SEC cybersecurity disclosure rules. Orchestrated an update to the Corporate Cyber Incident Response Plan, enhancing incident preparedness and alignment on cross-functional roles and responsibilities.
- Subject matter expert on privacy and AI governance issues for the CLO, CTO and other senior leaders.
- Scaled existing privacy operations to create an AI governance intake and risk assessment process to ensure responsible adoption of and visibility to company use of generative AI and related technologies.

GRAINGER

Lake Forest, Illinois

Director, Privacy

2021-2023

Led Global Privacy operations in the US, Europe, APAC, Canada, and LATAM for a Global, Fortune 500 e-commerce and industry-leading MRO company. Utilized metrics (KPIs, KPRs, etc.) generated as part of privacy-by-design operations to leverage privacy as a strategic competitive differentiator.

- Developed CPRA +, PIPL, and global privacy roadmaps to mature and enhance existing privacy infrastructure.
- Partnered with Information Security to organize an Information Protection Board designed to optimize information risk review processes.
- Created customer contract negotiation playbook on topics of privacy and cybersecurity and delivered training to cross-functional leadership teams.
- Served as member of organization's ESG (Environment Social and Governance) working group to identify and account for investor feedback on privacy and data ethics considerations.
- Enhanced operationalization of OneTrust privacy platform to embed privacy within key cross-functional processes, including the Grainger Technology Group, human resources, procurement, and marketing.

GRAINGER

Lake Forest, Illinois

Senior Manager, Global Data Privacy and Privacy Officer for Grainger Canada

2018-2021

Scaled programmatic operations across Grainger's global business units. Strategically deployed privacy infrastructure in anticipation of evolving legal and technology marketplace requirements. Reported directly to Chief Compliance Officer within the Legal Department.

- Developed, implemented, and operationalized CCPA compliance infrastructure, including cross-functional data subject request process involving stakeholders from IT, legal, procurement, human resources, and marketing.
- Integrated privacy-by-design into Grainger Technology Group's digital transformation strategy. Presented at department town halls and hosted awareness events and activities, including internal podcast regarding privacy.
- Volunteered to help lead COVID-19 response activities, including branch and distribution center safety matters and processes. Integrated privacy as core tenet of HR COVID-19 response strategy.
- Graduate of Grainger leadership curriculum, including BeBrave program focused on fostering diversity and inclusion.

GRAINGER

Lake Forest, Illinois

Manager, Data Privacy

2016-2018

Managed the creation of Grainger's Global Privacy Office in anticipation of GDPR and with emphasis on generally accepted privacy principles. Incorporated privacy-by-design into core business processes, and established key relationships with global cross functional stakeholders, including IT, marketing, human resources, public relations, legal, and procurement.

DEVRY EDUCATION GROUP

Downers Grove, Illinois

Manager, Data Privacy

2015-2016

Served as Manager of Data Privacy within the Department of Ethics and Compliance Services for a multi-national, Fortune 1000, for-profit education company. Established key privacy infrastructure and privacy metrics. Led teams of consultants and team members to develop data inventories and organization's first Incident Response Plan.

P R O F E S S O R I A L E X P E R I E N C E

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO SCHOOL OF LAW, Chicago, Illinois, **Adjunct Professor, Privacy and Security of Corporate Information**, 2014-2024. Taught graduate level course regarding privacy laws, including GDPR, CPRA, HIPAA, GLBA, PCI Compliance and state data breach laws. Highlighted emerging security threats and promoted a privacy-by-design approach.

C E R T I F I C A T I O N S

International Association of Privacy Professionals, *Certified Information Privacy Professional, United States (CIPP/US)*, 2014. Acquired ISO accredited privacy certification focused on compliance with U.S. privacy laws, regulations, and best practices.

International Association of Privacy Professionals, *Certified Information Privacy Professional, Europe (CIPP/E)*, 2015. Acquired ISO accredited privacy certification focused on compliance with European privacy laws, regulations, and best practices.

International Association of Privacy Professionals, *Certified Information Privacy Manager (CIPM)*, 2015. Acquired ISO accredited privacy certification focused on privacy program management.

International Association of Privacy Professionals, *Fellow of Information Privacy (FIP)*, 2016. Inducted into the IAPP's inaugural class. Awarded the organization's highest distinction based upon extensive job experience and demonstrated privacy expertise.

L I C E N S U R E

Illinois State Bar, 2008

E D U C A T I O N

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS CHICAGO LAW SCHOOL, Chicago, Illinois, **J.D., L.L.M., Information Technology & Privacy Law**, 2008

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON, Madison, Wisconsin, **B.A., History & Political Science**, 2003