Melissa Siebert

Chair, Emerging Data Privacy Trends

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Melissa is the chair of Cozen O'Connor's Emerging Data Privacy Trends practice. She and her team represent clients nationwide in privacy and data-related class actions, "mass" and individual arbitrations, and individual litigation in federal and state courts, including cases involving Illinois' Biometric Information Privacy Act (BIPA), Genetic Information Privacy Act (GIPA), the Video Privacy Protection Act (VPPA), the California Invasion of Privacy Act (CIPA), and claims involving pixels, cookies, and website analytics, as well as the recent surge in "trap and trace" litigation. The team is at the forefront of defending litigation based on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), and currently are defending several AI-based class actions. Melissa and her team also provide significant privacy-related compliance counseling and regulatory advice. Clients appreciate her ability to anticipate privacy-related data privacy litigation trends, and to develop creative and aggressive strategies to address them. She is a frequent and sought-after speaker on data privacy litigation, BIPA reform, and developing trends.

Melissa's experience handling BIPA cases has made her one of the leading lawyers in the rapidly developing area of biometric privacy litigation. She has argued and won some of the most significant BIPA appeals to date, garnering defense victories before the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. These landmark wins are recognized as laying the groundwork for one of the few clear paths to victory for BIPA defendants.

Prior to joining the firm, Melissa was a partner at an Am Law 200 firm, where she chaired the Biometric Privacy practice, overseeing a team of legal professionals and a caseload of over 150 BIPA class actions pending in federal and state courts.

Melissa earned her B.A. from Bucknell University and her J.D. and M.B.A. from Northwestern University.

Practice Areas

- Privacy Litigation – Emerging Trends
- Class Actions
- Appellate & Supreme Court
- Employment Litigation
- Artificial Intelligence

Education

- Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, J.D., 1992
- Northwestern University - Kellogg Graduate School of Management , M.B.A., 2000
- Bucknell University, B.A., 1989

Bar Admissions

- Illinois

Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court -- Central District of Illinois
- U.S. District Court -- Northern District of Illinois
- U.S. District Court -- Southern District of Illinois
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit
- U.S. Supreme Court

Awards & Honors

- Chambers & Partners USA: Privacy & Data Security: Litigation, 2024
- *Crain's Chicago Business*, Notable Leaders in Accounting, Consulting & Law, 2024
- *Law360* Cybersecurity & Privacy Group of the Year, 2022

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