

## Mayer Brown Adds Another Perkins Coie Data Privacy Expert

By James Mills

*Law360 (May 4, 2022, 4:37 PM EDT)* -- Mayer Brown LLP continues to expand on the West Coast, adding another Perkins Coie LLP data privacy specialist as a partner in its Los Angeles office.

Arsen Kourinian, who spent two years at Perkins Coie, has joined the Mayer Brown cybersecurity and data privacy practice, the firm said Tuesday. Kourinian specializes in advising clients about data privacy laws around the globe as well and offers guidance in creating uniform policies and procedures to conform with those many data privacy laws. He also helps companies respond to security incidents, including breach notifications.



Arsen Kourinian

With this move, Kourinian is reunited with data privacy guru Dominique Shelton Leipzig, who joined Mayer Brown from Perkins Coie in April. The two worked closely at Perkins Coie and will team up often at Mayer Brown, the firm said.

"When I investigated the firm in light of Dominique's move, I found [Mayer Brown has] incredible resources and talented attorneys on a global scale, which is something very important to my practice," Kourinian told Law360 Pulse on Wednesday. "I was excited to continue working with Dominique. We built together a strong group of attorneys and clients. We were very tied together in our global approach to privacy compliance. I'm excited to join Mayer Brown. They have an exceptional privacy and cybersecurity team. They're making a strong effort to expand their West Coast presence."

He said he is especially happy to continue working with Leipzig, whom he had admired long before meeting her.

"I knew of Dominique and her knowledge in the area [of data privacy]. We were able to connect and work together," he said. "A lot of this happened during the development of California's privacy law, and so we were sharing ideas and felt we were definitely in sync in our approach to privacy compliance. It's been a pleasure having a chance to work with her there [at Perkins Coie] and here at Mayer Brown as well."

John Nadolenco, managing partner of Mayer Brown's Los Angeles office, said he is glad to have Kourinian on board.

"Arsen is an exceptional practitioner with an outstanding track record of helping clients think holistically

when it comes to data privacy compliance," Nadolenco said in a statement. "Joining forces with Dominique and others, he will be a terrific addition to our expanding West Coast offerings for clients across our global platform."

Raj De, leader of Mayer Brown's global cybersecurity and data privacy practice, was also happy to welcome him.

"Following veteran data privacy lawyer Dominique Shelton Leipzig's arrival last month, Arsen's addition underscores our commitment to expanding our privacy bench to match evolving client needs," De said in a statement. "Clients facing an increasingly complex set of data and privacy challenges — in industries ranging from technology to financial services — will benefit from our added strength."

Kourinian is a 2010 graduate of Loyola Law School, Los Angeles. He worked at McGuireWoods LLP before joining Perkins Coie in 2020.

While at Perkins Coie, he wrote a popular blog on privacy and internet security issues. Mayer Brown officials haven't yet decided whether he will continue writing that blog for his new firm, but Kourinian said he finds data privacy to be endlessly fascinating.

"Privacy is a field that is constantly evolving," he said. "Sometimes it is evolving to meet the needs of developing technology. Other times it's evolving to meet the needs of the basic human right to privacy. What's interesting about privacy laws is that they are universal in nature. The privacy principles we advise clients on, although there might be some differences in different countries, are largely uniform because they all boil down to similar principles and concepts."

He said he especially enjoys helping clients understand data privacy and working with people creating products within the guidelines of privacy laws.

"It really unlocks [clients'] understanding of their own company's practices and the value of their data so they can continue to innovate," he said. "I enjoy working with really smart people at companies that are involved in product development and helping them incorporate these privacy principles as part of their product offering. It essentially helps them with their product growth."

Founded in 1881, Mayer Brown has over 1,800 attorneys in 27 offices worldwide. Its California offices are in Los Angeles, San Francisco and Palo Alto. Kourinian said he is impressed that Mayer Brown is committed to having a strong data privacy practice and is expanding it.

"Data privacy is an area that law firms are still figuring out how to structure in their group and how to address growing client needs," Kourinian said. "What I've been impressed by at Mayer Brown is they have an amazing team that is able to operate as one unit in not only the U.S. but on a global level. I've been incredibly impressed by their deep bench and first-class organization."

--Editing by Rich Mills.