



Mills Oakley launches new Digital Law practice

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National law firm Mills Oakley is responding to increased demand for digital/IT-related legal advice with the launch of a new Digital Law practice in Sydney.

The practice will be led by the firm's latest lateral partner hire, Alec Christie, an extremely well-credentialed senior practitioner of some 30 years standing. Alec was most recently a partner at EY, but has also spent almost a decade as a partner at DLA Piper and has been recognised by Best Lawyers Australia as a leading Data Privacy & Security and Outsourcing lawyer

Alec has a strong track record for developing and leading successful new practices. He was instrumental in the development of the Australian and Asia-Pacific Digital Law and Data Privacy team at EY and recently held the role of Asia-Pacific Digital Law Leader and Global Telecommunications Law Leader at EY. Earlier in his career, he established the first foreign law firm in Myanmar before selling that practice to a Big 4 global business advisory firm.

Alec has a blue chip client base including Microsoft, ANZ, Westpac, ING, ASX, ASIC, ABS, Cochlear and UNSW. His practice focuses on solutions in data privacy/cyber security, big data analytics, digital transformations, AI/RPA, AR/VR, online marketing, cloud computing, sourcing, block chain, smart contracts and cryptocurrency.

This is the second recent hire for Mills Oakley in a digital/IT-related practice this month, with the firm hiring Melbourne-based block chain and cryptocurrency expert Joni Pirovich from Hall & Wilcox last week. Alec and Joni and their teams will provide a 'one stop shop' for all block chain, smart contracts and cryptocurrency regulatory, contracting, risk/liability, implementation and strategic advice.

Commenting on this hire, Mills Oakley CEO John Nerurker said:

"We are serious about building the digital literacy of our firm and we are also responding to client demand for digital-related legal advice, including the IT, privacy, information regulatory and other digital implications of M&A and other transactions. This is a clear growth area for Mills Oakley."

Alec said that he was looking forward to building a market leading Digital Law team at Mills Oakley and working with colleagues to service both new and existing Mills Oakley clients:

"Collaboration, geographic reach within Australia and high calibre collegiate colleagues across all practice areas and offices are the key to building a successful practice. Mills Oakley has all of these and more, including a collegiate culture which incentivises partners to cross-refer and receive work from a diverse array of practices. It is the ideal fit for my practice," he observed.

Alec commences with Mills Oakley today before attending and speaking at the industry leading IAPP ANZ Privacy Summit on Tuesday and Wednesday.

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