

Sheppard Mullin Adds Partner To Growing Cybersecurity Team

By Adam Sege

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A privacy and cybersecurity attorney who has helped America Online Inc. and other companies navigate a range of data and information issues has joined the Washington, D.C., office of Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP, the firm announced.

Laura Jehl, who returns to private practice after advising a range of clients at the public relations firm Levick, joined Sheppard Mullin this week as a business trial practice group partner and will be co-leader of the firm's privacy and data security practice.



Laura Jehl

At Levick, Jehl guided companies through issues involving data security, privacy, lawsuits and government investigations. She previously served as general counsel, chief privacy and security officer at Resolution Health Inc., a position through which she played a central role in the response to a massive 2015 cyberattack against RHI's parent company, insurer Anthem Inc.

Before RHI, she served as vice president and chief litigation counsel at AOL, where her work included guiding the company's actions related to several government investigations related to data and privacy.

In an interview with Law360 on Wednesday, Jehl said she's excited to return to private practice at a time when issues of data security and related regulation are growing in importance for companies.

"Data these days is currency for businesses, which is why people want to steal it," she said. "It's also why businesses want to keep it and use it."

Jehl said she was drawn to Sheppard Mullin by a firm structure that she said encourages transparency and entrepreneurial approaches. The firm's leaders and the data security and privacy team she will be co-leading are also committed to continuing to build the practice, she said.

In her new role, Jehl will be advising clients on a range of compliance and strategy matters related to the use and protection of information.

"It's an opportunity to represent clients on data security and privacy issues, both the risks and the opportunities represented by a new era of big data," she said.

In a statement, the firm's chairman, Guy N. Halgren, said Jehl's extensive experience and collaborative style make her "an ideal fit" for the firm.

"Our clients rely on us for effective cybersecurity solutions," Halgren said. "Laura's considerable experience responding to high-profile cyberattacks and government investigations working for such companies as RHI/Anthem, AOL and Levick adds depth to our growing Privacy & Cybersecurity practice, a strategic priority for our firm."

A self-described "constitutional law geek," Jehl graduated cum laude from Harvard Law School and with highest honors from the University of California at Berkeley.

--Editing by Patricia K. Cole.

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