

Cyber Security for Law Firms

Comprehensive Risk Management for a Complex Digital Era

Law firms are prime targets for cyberattacks and the risks are only growing. Whether handling sensitive personal data, confidential client materials, or privileged communications, today's firms face increasing demands to protect information, comply with privacy regulations, and respond swiftly when breaches occur.

At Hinshaw, we offer end-to-end cyber risk support specifically tailored to the legal profession. Our team brings together deep experience in legal ethics, risk management, insurance, data privacy, litigation, and technology law to help firms prepare, respond, and recover.

We don't just advise, we partner with firms to create resilient systems, defend against liability, and meet the evolving expectations of clients, regulators, and insurers.

Built for the Business and Practice of Law: We understand the unique regulatory, ethical, and operational demands of legal professionals. Our team includes legal malpractice defense attorneys, privacy and data security counsel, and former regulators with a deep knowledge of attorney obligations and law firm operations.

Cross-Disciplinary Firepower: Our cyber team draws from Hinshaw's national bench in professional liability, class action defense, insurance coverage, commercial litigation, and IP/technology. This allows us to offer coordinated guidance that reflects the full scope of risk facing today's firms.

Trusted by the Legal Industry: Hinshaw is consistently ranked among the top law firms in professional responsibility and ethics. We host the industry-leading **Legal Malpractice & Risk Management Conference (LMRM)** and have authored foundational risk management guidance for lawyers nationwide.

Representative Experience

The Case of the Missing Laptop

- Hinshaw was contacted by a law firm after one of its partners had an unencrypted laptop computer—which contained personally identifying information of individuals residing in multiple states—stolen. We: counseled the law firm on reporting the incident to its insurance carrier and to law enforcement; drafted a breach notification letter; advised on reporting obligations to state officials; and recommended and worked with the firm to hire a vendor to offer identity theft protection, issued the breach notifications, and set up a call center to handle questions from those persons who received the notification.

Extortion Attempt

- Hinshaw's Cyber Security for Law Firms practice group worked with a client that was the victim of an extortion attempt, which threatened the public release of personally identifiable information in the client's possession involving thousands of third parties, which we believed was sent by a former employee. We: assisted the client in making contact with federal law enforcement; worked with the client to hire forensic experts to investigate the incident and to confirm that its network was secure; coordinated the forensic evaluation of the client's network with the law enforcement investigation; hired a third-party vendor to offer credit monitoring and to set up a call center; and drafted the required breach notifications under state and federal (HIPAA) law.

Network Intrusion

- After being contacted by a client's information technology department about a network intrusion originating from the Far East, we worked with the client to contain the intrusion, and arranged for forensic security experts to meet with the client the following day. The forensic security experts eradicated the threat to the client's system, and blocked all email traffic coming from that sector of the Internet without the loss or exfiltration of any data.

Areas of Focus

Incident Response

- 24/7 breach response counsel and crisis management
- Network containment and forensic coordination
- Client, regulator, and insurer notification support
- Breach reporting under HIPAA, GDPR, and state laws
- Privilege preservation strategies and ethical guidance
- Coordination with third-party vendors, call centers, and communications teams
- Preparation of breach disclosures and remediation protocols

Post-Breach Defense & Litigation

- Defense of regulatory investigations, bar complaints, and disciplinary actions
- Representation in privacy and data breach class actions
- Insurance recovery and policyholder advocacy in cyber claims
- Legal malpractice defense related to breach consequences
- Advice on reputational repair and regulatory resolution

Prevention & Compliance

- Cyber risk assessments tailored to law firm operations
- Drafting and revising privacy and security policies (HIPAA, HITECH, BYOD, network/cloud)
- Vendor contract reviews and data inventory audits
- Incident response plan development and tabletop exercises
- Employee and attorney training on data security best practices
- Cyber insurance policy review and gap analysis
- Compliance counseling under ABA ethics rules, state regulations, and client security mandates
- Coordination of penetration testing and vulnerability scanning
- Evaluation of document destruction, storage, and physical access protocols

Recognized Leadership

- **U.S. News – Best Lawyers** named Hinshaw “Law Firm of the Year” in Ethics and Professional Responsibility Law.
- Hinshaw is featured in Law360’s “6 Firms to Have on Speed Dial If Malpractice Trouble Hits.”
- Our attorneys have authored the ABA’s *Risk Management: Survival Tools for Law Firms* and handled over **6,500 risk hotline consultations** for lawyers nationwide.
- Our **Legal Malpractice & Risk Management Conference (LMRM)** has led the conversation on law firm risk, ethics, and cybersecurity since 2002.

Safeguard Your Firm, Clients, and Reputation

Cybersecurity is no longer optional for law firms—it’s a client mandate, a regulatory requirement, and a core part of professional responsibility. Hinshaw helps you prepare for the risks and pressures that come with modern legal practice.

Insights

In The News
Apr 7, 2025

***Bloomberg Law* Recaps Panels from Hinshaw’s 2025 Legal Malpractice and Risk Management (LMRM) Conference**

Steve Puiszis Comments on the Risks of Submitting AI-Generated Case Law in Court Filings

To Find Out More Contact



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Related Capabilities

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