

Sony Pictures Privacy VP Jumps to BakerHostetler in Los Angeles

Jennifer Mitchell was also previously the global privacy officer for a division of Abbott Laboratories, and will lend expertise to the firm's health care technology clients, BakerHostetler's Ted Kobus said.

By Jessie Yount

After four years in-house at two Fortune 100 companies, during which she oversaw consumer-facing and employee privacy programs, Jennifer Mitchell has returned to private practice, joining BakerHostetler as a partner in Los Angeles.

Mitchell had been vice president of privacy at Sony Pictures since March 2020. She was previously the global privacy officer for the Diabetes Care Division of Abbott Laboratories for over two years. She also spent nearly seven years at McDermott Will & Emery between 2007 and 2014.

She joins BakerHostetler's digital assets and data management practice group, where she aims to use her operational experience to help clients



Courtesy photo

Jennifer Mitchell of BakerHostetler.

implement privacy compliance programs and support consumer data initiatives.

The timing of her move “is partly reflective of the changes emerging in the privacy landscape in the U.S. and globally, as new regulations are developed and come into play,” Mitchell said, noting that both

traditional health care companies and technology companies venturing into wearables or other health-tech products need to get serious about compliance.

That was part of the draw to BakerHostetler as well.

“I’ve always enjoyed working with diverse clients and

industries, and going back to private practice is the best of both worlds,” Mitchell said, noting she is looking forward to working across industries with partners with a mix of in-house, public sector and private practice experience.

Mitchell brings “deep in-house experience that we believe translates into an appreciation for the operational challenges our clients are facing with the rapidly changing privacy landscape,” Ted Kobus, chair of the digital assets and data management practice group, said in a statement. “Moreover, we have seen an increase in demand from our health care technology

clients, and Jennifer’s broad experience will be invaluable.”

Mitchell has helped companies navigate the General Data Protection Regulation, the California Consumer Privacy Act and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. She has also regularly provided strategic guidance on the intersection of privacy laws and product and app design, M&A and divestiture activities and data sharing arrangements.

Looking to 2022, Mitchell said she expects to remain extremely busy as she helps companies comply with the California Privacy Rights Act and prepare for forthcoming privacy

regulations in states such as Virginia and Colorado, all with the understanding that there is no “one-size-fits-all” approach for compliance.

BakerHostetler has made a number of significant hires in the second half of 2021. In October, it lured 23-year Federal Trade Commission veteran Daniel Kaufman to its digital assets practice in Washington, D.C. In September, it brought on labor and employment partners Matt Kane and Sylvia Kim from McGuireWoods in Los Angeles. In July, it added class actions litigator Bethany Lukitsch, also from McGuireWoods in Los Angeles.