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TRAILBLAZERS

CYBERSECURITY & DATA PRIVACY



Dear Readers,

Welcome to the premiere issue of *Cyber Security & Data Privacy Trailblazers*, a special supplement developed by *The National Law Journal*. In the pages that follow, you'll read 50 profiles of people who have helped make a difference in the fight against criminal cyber activity and towards adding much needed layers of data security in an increasingly digital world of commerce. While those recognized impact the practice of law in different ways, a common thread ties them together: each has shown a deep passion and perseverance in pursuit of their mission, having achieved remarkable successes along the way.

We received hundreds of nominations cast in favor of this year's honorees and a cast of other leading minds who will surely be recognized in years to come. We took time to vet each submission and interviewed each Trailblazer to find out what has driven them to reach success. In the pages that follow, I think you'll enjoy reading these short findings.

As with all Trailblazers supplements, the list is never complete. Our goal is to spotlight those making a big difference and the search never ends. If you have someone you feel should make our next list, please reach out and let us know. We hope you enjoy this special section and look forward to hearing from you with your nominations for next year's list!

Congratulations again to this year's honorees.

All the best,



Kenneth A. Gary

Vice President and Group Publisher, *The National Law Journal & Legal Times*

REED SMITH

TRAILBLAZERS

CYBERSECURITY & DATA PRIVACY

MARK MELODIA

REED SMITH



PIONEER SPIRIT Mark Melodia took an early academic interest in cyberspace. For his senior thesis at Princeton University in 1985, he wrote on information and the law. Yet his early legal career focused on class-action and government enforcement defense, primarily in financial services. “When data breaches started, I was positioned to get some of the earliest cases in the battles involving class actions against financial institutions.”

TRAILS BLAZED “Many of the arguments I used in the earliest cases are still in play.” For example, in *Giordano, et al. v. Wachovia Securities*, he established that merely losing a copy of Social Security numbers and other personal information alone cannot support a class action. “That was the first federal court decision finding as a matter of constitutional law that absent real harm to the named plaintiff there is no standing to proceed. That’s still usually the first defense in a data breach class action.” That case was among the approximately 75 class actions Melodia has defended arising from data breaches or allegations of data misuse. Nearly a decade ago, he also oversaw some of the earliest class settlements for clients such as ChexSystems creating templates for how those settlements could win judicial approval. “What was then creative is now common.”

FUTURE EXPLORATIONS Melodia, who co-chairs Reed Smith’s Global Intellectual Property, Information and Innovation Practice Group and its Innovation Think Tank, is now focused on the Internet of Things and potential liability issues arising out of the proliferation of objects besides phones and computers that connect to the Internet, such as cars, medical devices and airplanes. “All those things collect data, which will continue to raise cyber issues.”