Howard & Howard
law for business

Rita W. Garry

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"I am proud to be the trusted advisor to business enterprises of all types and to help them execute business goals strategically and collaboratively to thrive in ever increasing complex and regulatory environments."

Rita W. Garry is a seasoned corporate, transactional, artificial intelligence and data privacy attorney and is the trusted legal advisor to a wide variety of business enterprises across an array of industries, including professional services, banking and finance, healthcare, manufacturing, technology, aviation supply, craft breweries, not-for-profit trade associations and multinational gift card distributor. Rita builds strategic and long-term relationships with clients to create corporate governance, risk awareness, and legal compliance infrastructures for her clients to promote their stability, growth, risk mitigation, and future transitional planning for both strategic and private equity sales, mergers, and acquisitions. Rita's extensive work with a diverse client base involves many enterprise matters including choice of entity and governance, employment, finance, real estate, commercial contracting, software licensing, transactions, and, most recently, data privacy and cybersecurity compliance.

As the importance of data management and privacy laws has grown, Rita guides enterprise clients, both internationally and nationally, in designing and operationalizing data management and protection law compliance programs, including those related to GLBA, HIPAA, GDPR and CCPA, among others. Also, since business data is frequently stored, processed, and shared with customers, vendors and other service providers, Rita works with clients to manage data protection in their contractual arrangement to help manage privacy law compliance.

Business & Corporate

- Artificial Intelligence
- Data Privacy and Cybersecurity
- Financial Institutions
- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Trust and Estate Planning

Representative Matters

- Led negotiations and drafting for international joint venture with US FAA certified repair station and French original equipment manufacturer of commercial aircraft wheel and brake assemblies.
- Served as outside general counsel for international gift card fulfillment distributor meeting many years of business challenges including acquisition of UK subsidiary, data breach management, cybersecurity and privacy law compliance guidance leading to successful $25 million private equity sale transaction in 2018.
- Represented regional multi-clinic veterinarian practice in several corporate restructurings leading to national roll-up in $30 million debt/equity finance transaction.
- Counsel to first time sell-side owners of clinical drug trial management company in reverse triangular merger transaction to publicly traded acquirer.
- Counsel to first time sell-side owners of regional industrial tools distributor including tax-free reorganization and $12 million sale to private equity buyer.

Education

- Boston University School of Law, 1983
    - J.D.
- Lake Forest College, 1979
    - B.A. Politics
    - Phi Beta Kappa
    - High honors

Memberships

- Illinois State Bar Association
- ISBA Privacy and Information Security Law Section, 2021-2022
- International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP)
- Certified Information Privacy Professional/US (CIPP/US)

Admissions

- Illinois, 1983

Professional Achievements

- *Legal 500* U.S. Elite: Chicago, 2026
- Illinois *Leading Lawyers,* 2016-2025
- Illinois *Leading Lawyers,* "Leading Women Lawyers," 2025

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