Access to Experts

Alan Charles Raul , Partner , Sidley Austin LLP

ALAN CHARLES RAUL is the lead Global Coordinator of Sidley's Privacy, Data Security and Information Law practice. Mr. Raul has a broad litigation and counseling practice that covers government regulation and enforcement, administrative law and corporate compliance, privacy and information law. Mr. Raul's practice involves federal, state and international privacy issues, including global data protection programs, information security, cybersecurity and representation in connection with data breaches. He also represents clients with respect to Internet Law, communications privacy, E-Commerce, social media, children's privacy, marketing, advertising and consumer protection issues.
Sidley has been named one of the leading national "Privacy and Data Security" practices in Chambers Global and Chambers USA, and Mr. Raul is ranked in the top tier of Privacy and Data Security practitioners. He has been named as a leading international Internet and E-Commerce Lawyer in Who's Who Legal. Mr. Raul was also named to Ethisphere Institute's "Attorneys Who Matter" in Data Privacy/Security, which recognizes lawyers with the highest commitment to public service, legal community engagement and academic involvement.

A significant portion of Mr. Raul's practice also involves government regulation and enforcement, including advocacy in court, before federal and state agencies, and Congressional Committees. Building on his experience as General Counsel of two cabinet agencies, and as Associate White House Counsel, Mr. Raul has handled significant regulatory and enforcement matters across a spectrum of federal and state agencies and program areas. Mr. Raul frequently represents clients in the defense, media and telecommunications, financial, professional services, consumer product, pharmaceutical, food and agriculture industries. Mr. Raul maintains active security clearances.
Representative types of matters handled by Mr. Raul include:
• Privacy and information security litigation, data breach incidents, regulatory investigations and compliance counseling.
• International data protection compliance programs and cross-border transfers.
• Cybersecurity and national security issues.
• False Claims Act actions involving the Department of Justice and qui tam relators (including defense, financial service, food and agriculture industries).
• Administrative Procedure Act litigation addressing federal rulemaking and regulatory actions.
• FTC actions involving consumer protection, privacy and information security.
• Internet litigation and counseling under the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, Electronic Communications Privacy Act and Anticybersquatting Consumer Protection Act.
• Consumer protection and advertising, labeling, trademark and litigation under the FTC Act, Lanham Act and state unfair business practice statutes.
• USDA programs including food safety, biotechnology, school lunch and nutrition programs.
• Congressional and Inspector General investigations.
Mr. Raul served as Vice Chairman of the White House Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, a panel established by the legislation implementing the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, from March 2006 through January 2008. Mr. Raul was appointed to this part-time position by President George W. Bush following confirmation by the United States Senate. The Board advises the President and heads of Executive departments and agencies, and reports to Congress, to ensure that privacy and civil liberties are appropriately considered in the development and implementation of laws, regulations and Executive branch policies related to efforts to protect the Nation against terrorism. In a December 2001 article in the Los Angeles Times, Mr. Raul had recommended the creation of a similar council to advise the President on the civil liberties implications of anti-terrorism measures. More recently, Mr. Raul has published pieces in the Washington Post, New York Times, and The Hill exhorting the President and Congress to re-invigorate the Privacy Board.
Mr. Raul previously served in the White House as Associate Counsel to the President (1986-1988). During his tenure as Associate Counsel to President Ronald Reagan, Mr. Raul represented the White House in connection with the Iran-Contra investigations. He subsequently served as General Counsel of the Office of Management and Budget in the Executive Office of the President (1988-1989), and then was appointed by President George H. W. Bush, with Senate confirmation, as General Counsel of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (1989-1993).
Mr. Raul is the author of the book, Privacy and the Digital State: Balancing Public Information and Personal Privacy (Kluwer Academic Publishers 2001). He is also a co-author of the book, Administrative Law of the European Union: Oversight (ABA 2008). Mr. Raul has appeared frequently as a legal commentator on television and radio, and testifies before Congress, on various issues.

Mr. Raul also writes and speaks regularly on Internet and information law topics, "junk science," and federal regulatory policy, as well as on constitutional, political and social issues. He has published numerous articles in legal periodicals, as well as pieces in the Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, New York Times, Washington Times, Politico, The Hill and various Bloomberg BNA publications. He is the lead author of "Regulatory Daubert: A Proposal to Enhance Judicial Review of Agency Science by Incorporating Daubert Principles into Administrative Law," in the Journal of Law and Contemporary Problems (Fall 2003).

Mr. Raul serves as a Board Member and Secretary of the National China Garden Foundation, which is a non-profit organization established to support the joint efforts of the U.S. and Chinese governments to build and operate a China Garden in the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. The Garden is intended to serve as a cultural exchange and as a symbol of bilateral friendship between the two countries.

Mr. Raul was graduated from Harvard College (A.B. 1975), Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government (M.P.A. 1977), and Yale Law School (J.D. 1980). He clerked for Judge Malcolm R. Wilkey of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. In 1991, Mr. Raul co-founded the "Lawyers Have Heart" 10K run and walk, to benefit the American Heart Association, and he continues his active involvement with the event. Mr. Raul lives in Washington, D.C., with his wife, Mary, and three children.

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