



Erik Jones

PARTNER

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Erik's legal career has been marked by his passion for the intersection of law and technology and government investigations. He is a leading authority on data privacy, cybersecurity, consumer protection, and the regulatory implications of disruptive technologies. Erik's senior roles in both state and federal government provide him a unique and broad perspective for clients seeking to manage legal and regulatory risk.

Erik's experience in government began in Congress, where he served as Counsel on the House Oversight & Government Reform Committee. He later served in the United State Senate as Deputy General Counsel & Chief Investigative Counsel for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. In these roles, he led congressional investigations into a range of issues, from e-commerce practices and privacy to government contracting and environmental regulations. Notably, Erik led the congressional investigation that uncovered FEMA had known about the high-levels of formaldehyde present in the trailers it supplied to displaced victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Erik also played a significant role in Congress's work on data security, privacy, and technology issues, taking the lead in drafting and negotiating the Restore Online Shoppers' Confidence Act (ROSCA), which President Obama signed into law in 2010, and serving as lead counsel on cybersecurity for the Senate Commerce Committee. He was instrumental in the process that established the National Institute of Standards and Technology's Cybersecurity Framework, and directed the first federal investigation into the privacy practices of data brokers.

Erik joined WBK from the Illinois Attorney General's office, most recently serving as Senior Public Interest Counsel under Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan. In that role – his second tour of duty in the office – General Madigan tapped Erik to lead the office's investigation into clergy sexual abuse in Illinois. He previously served as Director of the Policy Bureau and Assistant Attorney General, where he was General Madigan's lead advisor on data security and privacy. He developed investigations and legislation on a range of privacy and technology issues, including patent trolls, consumer health data, and payroll cards. He lead the effort to update Illinois law on data security for the first time in a decade.

PRACTICE AREAS

Enforcement and Investigations

Privacy and Cybersecurity

Cybersecurity

Privacy and Data Protection

Supply Chain Security

Data Protection

Transportation and Emerging Technologies

Internet of Things

Connected and Automated Vehicles

Drones / Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)

FTC, Advertising and Consumer Protection

BAR ADMISSIONS

Washington, DC

Illinois

EDUCATION

J.D., University of Michigan Law School

B.S., Southern Illinois University – Edwardsville

Before joining WBK, Erik was previously a partner in nationally-ranked privacy and security practice, where he also served as co-chair of the congressional investigations practice.