



Ioannis E. Giannakakis

Legal Director

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 - Personal Details:
- Date of birth 15/06/1966, Athens Greece, ▪ nationality Greek, ▪ gender Male

Highly experienced senior legal professional with an internationally awarded expertise in data protection and compliance across multiple industries and European geographies. A dynamic leader with a proven track record of effectively consulting with clients, preparing legal arguments, and providing strategic legal advice. Passionate and innovative individual adept at analyzing risks and implementing mitigation strategies. Compelling communicator well-versed at fostering and developing positive professional relationships with key stakeholders. History of collaborating with cross-functional and diverse team members across several countries and industries.

Areas of Expertise

- Data Protection & Management
- Project Management
- Regulatory Compliance
- Litigation & Legal Research
- Mergers & Acquisitions
- Training & Mentoring
- Client Consultation
- Strategic Legal Advice
- Risk Management

Career Experience

Hellenic Post – EATA

Chief Legal Officer

04/2023- present

Trusted adviser to Group CEO and Board of Directors managing the external and internal legal teams. Change management and proven leadership track record to support the ongoing large scale transformation plan of the organization

11/2019 – 01/2023

Avramar Seafood Group

Group General Counsel & Chief Compliance Officer

Spearhead legal, ethics, and compliance operations as member of group executive team. Consult with key stakeholders to analyse cases and provide strategic legal advice. Formulate and implement internal policies and procedures in accordance with code of conducts. Coordinate duties of cross-functional and diverse team members. Investigate legal issues, whistle-blower

scenarios, and scheme management.

- Created high-quality legal compliance and risk teams across Greece and Spain.
- Directed three separate mergers within Greece and Spain.
- Formulated and implemented continuous improvement programs in compliance, ethics, and risk management.
- Fostered and developed positive professional relationships with key stakeholders.

G+P Law Firm
Managing Partner

02/2018 – Present

Consult with medium to large sized corporations to provide comprehensive legal advice. Serve as point of reference for data protection, cybersecurity, and digital transformation. Perform legal research and prepare legal arguments. Liaise with key internal and external stakeholders to respond to queries and address concerns.

- Recognized as “Leading Data Protection Law Firm in Greece” for 2021 and 2022 by Corporate INTL magazine.
- Upheld exceptional standards of client relations and developed positive professional relationships with key stakeholders.

The DPO Academy

12/2016 – 01/2020

Director

Formulate content and organize data protection training courses. Deliver corporate and classroom lecturers to 1K+ executives and senior professionals. Create, implement, and distribute training materials. Liaise with key internal and external stakeholders to respond to queries and address concerns.

- 1K+ senior executives across Retail, Energy, Banking, Insurance, Information Security, and Gaming attended DPO Executive Training Programs; receiving ISO 17024:2013 compliant Certification by TUV Austria Academy.
- Created first GDPR Auditors Executive Training Course in Greece, concluding successfully in 2019.

G4S Group

01/2016 – 04/2018

Regional General Counsel and Data Protection Officer Southern & Central Europe

Led management of internal and external legal and compliance processes across Europe. Served as Data Protection Officer for Southern Europe cluster countries. Oversaw data mapping and classification processes in addition to gap identification and analysis. Consulted with Managing Director to support business in Greece, Romania Bulgaria, Turkey, Serbia Cyprus Malta, Czech Republic, Austria and Slovenia. Performed comprehensive legal research and coordinated internal investigations into corruption and ethics violations. Outlined compliance roadmaps and prepared roadmaps.

- Served as European Project Leader for multi-layered GDPR Compliance Project across 19 countries and 55 legal entities.
- Upheld exceptional standards of client service in fast-paced and high-pressure environments.

Novartis Hellas S.A.C.I.

02/2014 – 01/2016

Head of Legal and Compliance/Country Data Protection Officer

Directed legal and compliance operations in addition to overseeing data protection processes. Performed legal research and analyzed case law. Organized, coordinated, and supervised external legal network. Provided strategic legal support to leadership team and executive management. Maintained compliance with national and European regulatory framework (EMA, SFEE).

- Successfully coordinated GSK portfolio multi-layered integration to Novartis Oncology with zero downtime.
- Fostered and developed positive professional relationships with key stakeholders.
- Performed comprehensive internal investigations and effectively dealt with violations of codes of conduct and incidents of bribery or corruption.

Elais-Unilever Hellas, Greece & Cyprus

02/2005 – 02/2014

General Counsel & Business Integrity Officer

Oversaw management of three counsels in Greece and one counsel in Cyprus. Liaised with General Counsel of Europe and upheld effective communication channels. Provided strategic legal and compliance support organizations in Greece and Cyprus. Executed extensive internal investigations and led whistleblowing program management. Served as M&A project leader and collaborated with cross-functional team members across projects.

- Served as project leader in successful acquisition of EVGA Ice Cream Sector by Unilever Greece, leading to achievement of Global Compass Award.
- Served as project leader in Sara Lee transfer of undertakings and acquisitions of cosmetics portfolio by Unilever group /
- Led acquisition of Toni & Guy by Unilever group.
- Effectively oversaw creation of Joint Venture with Tseriotis Group in Greece.

Additional Experience

Associate Group General Counsel, BVIC (1996-2009)

Legal Counsel (in- house), ING Greece/NN Life Insurance Company Greece (1992-1999)

Education

LLM (Master of Law)
Ludwig-Maximillian's Universität München, Germany

LLB (Bachelor of Law)
National & Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece

Certifications

Fellow of Information Privacy (FIP), International Association of Privacy Professionals
Certified Information Privacy Professional for Europe, International Association of Privacy Professionals
Certified Information Privacy Professional /United States (CIPP/US), International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP),
Certified Information Privacy Manager (CIPM), International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP)
Certified EU GDPR Practitioner, IT Governance
Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE), Association of Certified Fraud Examiners
Accredited Data Protection & GDPR Instructor and Trainer, By Hellenic Educational Organization, LAEK

Affiliations

Athens Bar Association

Cyprus Bar Association

Awards

Secured Global Compass Award for successful clearance of EVGA Ice Cream Acquisition
Included in Priv Sec 200 List of top privacy professionals in Europe by World Data Protection forum and One Trust.
Achieved recognition as one of ten most influential leaders in Legal Services by Tycoonsuccess.com
Recognized as "Data Protection Law Expert of the Year| and | Leading Data Protection Counsel in Greece for three consecutive years (2021, 2022 and 2023) by Leaders in Law and Global Legal Experts as well as "Best Data Protection Lawyer in Greece- 2023 by Lawyer International

Languages

English (Full Professional Proficiency)
German (Professional Working Proficiency)
Greek (Native or Bilingual Proficiency)
Spanish (Conversational Proficiency)

