

## Business and Human Rights

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Would you know if your business was involved in child labor, a privacy violation, or another human rights impact? What about a business partner or supplier? If your business doesn't respect human rights, you could be open to devastating adverse publicity as well as hard legal liability.

The legal landscape is changing. Soft law, such as the UN Guiding Principles, is crystalizing into hard law. Courts all around the world are extending their jurisdiction to human rights impacts that occur extraterritorially and throughout a business's value chain.

We have acted in some of the leading disputes in this field, wherever, and however, they were brought: in the United States under the Alien Tort Claims Act, in English parent company liability cases, and in other courts exercising universal jurisdiction over alleged complicity in international crimes.

This means that we understand the legal risk associated with adverse human rights impacts. Our integrated practice group builds on this foundation to provide the full spectrum of business and human rights advice, including:

- preventing and reporting on modern slavery
- supply chain transparency

### Key contacts

**Neal Katyal,**  
Washington, D.C.

**Christelle Coslin,**  
Paris

**Liam Naidoo,**  
London

**Julia Marlow,**  
London

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### Trending Topics

#### Our Blog

Visit our international business and human rights blog for the latest updates.

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### Areas of focus

Business Integrity and Sustainable Development

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### Related practices

Administrative and Public Law

Banking and Loan Finance

Commercial

- human rights due diligence
- risk assessment and deal approvals
- human rights investigations and crisis management
- managing the remediation of harm, including operational-level grievance mechanisms
- defending human rights-related claims, wherever, and however, they are brought

## Representative experience

Delivering interactive training on modern slavery to the employees of a multinational engineering company.

Advising a multinational energy company on the jurisdiction of the English courts to hear human rights claims against it.

Advising a multinational energy company in relation to a criminal investigation into alleged complicity in war crimes.

Advising companies in the TMT sector on human rights and artificial intelligence.

Advising a telecommunications company on the human rights risk arising from its contractual relationships with international partners.

Advising a technology company on a criminal investigation into human rights impacts arising from the use of its equipment in a conflict.

Delivering focused training on human rights to the legal management of an international energy company.

Advising global corporations from a range of industries on compliance with the UK Modern Slavery Act 2015.

Advising a private equity firm on human rights due diligence, including in relation to indigenous peoples' rights.

Advising a global telecommunications company on the scope of disclosure requirements under the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

Complex Contracting

Copyright

Corporate Governance

Environment and Natural Resources

Intellectual Property

Investment Funds

Infrastructure, Energy, Resources, and Projects

International Arbitration

International Trade and Investment

Litigation Services

Pharmaceuticals and Biotechnology  
Regulatory

Public Procurement

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Advising Vodafone, Telenor, and the Telecommunications Industry Dialogue (TID) on pioneering multijurisdictional reports.

Advising Shell in defending claims brought in the English courts in relation to two operational oil spills in the Niger Delta.

Representing Talisman in U.S. proceedings under the ATCA arising from claims of alleged complicity in war crimes in Sudan.

Training for Ugandan business leaders on how to reduce human rights risk in collaboration with the UN Global Compact.

Advising a global food company in a class action brought in U.S. courts under the Alien Tort Statute.

## Awards and rankings

- Finalist, International Law Firm Innovation of the Year, *Legal Week*, 2018
- Award for International Legal Services (Business and Human Rights), *LexisNexis*, 2018

## Latest thinking and events

### News

European Commission publishes proposal for the EU's Generalised Scheme of Preferences

### News

It's personal - courier was worker, despite ability to offer slots to others

### News

NLRB General Counsel seeks to further shake up college sports

### News

Silencing hush provisions - CA non-disclosure ban extends to all types of unlawful workplace conduct

### News

Texas expands protections for sexual harassment claims

### News

Mandatory health pass ("Green Pass") in Italy to enter workplaces - Work & Safety against COVID-19