



Data Breach Risks for Law Firms

Presented to 31st Annual
Technology Law Conference

By Elizabeth Rogers

Earogers@michaelbest.com

512-640-3164

May 24-25, 2018



Statistics

Key Findings from 2016 Survey*:

- Only 23% of firms have cybersecurity insurance policies.
- Substantial majority of assessments show firms are not compliant with their data governance and cyber security policies.
- 100% of those firms are not compliant with their client's policy standards.
- Every law firm assessed was targeted by hackers for confidential client data in 2016-2017.
- Approximately 40% did not know they were breached.

*Conducted by LogicForce



Statistics

- 34% of 100 law firms have had clients request a security audit
- Large clients are now routinely sending security due diligence questionnaires (Large banks, Hospitals, etc)



Types of Breaches

- Most common types of breaches
 - Loss or theft of laptops, thumb drives, smart phones or tablets
 - Phishing
 - December 2, 2016 – NYAG warned law firms not to click on a link claiming to reveal a complaint lodged by a client
 - Ransomware – DLA Piper 2017
 - Employees/third parties using unauthorized hardware and software (Evernote/Google Drive)

Law firms are great targets for cybercriminals

1. Environment

- Servers hold incredibly valuable information.
 - IP
 - Medical records
 - Bank information
 - Government secrets
- Vulnerability lies in compliance among all attorneys at a firm
 - Some attorneys and staff may not fully grasp the insecurity of behavior such as:
 - using public networks to access client documents
 - Unencrypted email transmission

Most common types of hackers

- **Cybercriminals**
 - Theft is motive
 - #1 law firm hacker
- Hacktivists
- Nation state hackers
- Insider Threats
 - Malicious
 - Negligent



Find the full text of this and thousands of other resources from leading experts in dozens of legal practice areas in the [UT Law CLE eLibrary \(utcle.org/elibrary\)](http://utcle.org/elibrary)

Title search: Data Breach Risks for Law Firms

Also available as part of the eCourse

[Answer Bar: Global Data Security Considerations for the Corporate Client](#)

First appeared as part of the conference materials for the
31st Annual Technology Law Conference session

"Law Firm Data Security and the Ethical Duty of Technology Competence"