Privacy and the Intersection of E-Discovery

UT LAW 2021 eDiscovery Essentials

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Agenda

1 Approach of U.S. Courts to Foreign Data Privacy Laws



Privacy Challenges Presented by GDPR (and similar laws)



3 Compliance Strategies



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Part 1

Approach of U.S. Courts to Foreign Data Privacy Laws

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Landmark Case: Aerospatiale

"It is well settled that [foreign] statutes do not deprive an American court of the power to order a party subject to its jurisdiction to produce evidence even though the act of production may violate that statute."

Societe Nationale Industrielle Aerospatiale v. U.S. Dist. Ct. for S. Dist. of Iowa, 482, U.S. 522, 544 n.29 (1987).

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Balancing Test

- Aerospatiale led to development of a balancing test
- Five non-exhaustive factors

Importance to the litigation of the documents requested

Degree of specificity of the request

Whether the information originated in the United States

Availability of alternative means of securing the information

Extent to which noncompliance with the request would undermine important interests of the U.S., or compliance would undermine important interests of nation where information is located

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Potential Consequences

Spoliation of Evidence

- Adverse inference jury instructions
- Monetary fines
- Attorneys fees and costs

Contempt of Court

Dismissal of Claims/Directed Judgment Criminal
Obstruction
Claims And
Criminal Fines

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