

Spotlight on Women in Privacy™



Mary Pothos, Booking.com, Chief Privacy Officer

What do you love most about being a privacy professional?

I have been working in the field of privacy since 2004 and every year there is something new to consider – it is a subject matter which is continuously evolving. As such, it never gets boring and there is always something new to learn and address. I also love the close ties to technology which likely prompt the various shifts in privacy practice over the years as regulation and guidance in this area seek to track the changes we have experienced in technology and social media.

What was the best professional advice you ever received?

There are two pieces of advice that resonate: (1) to always speak up – people are not necessarily always looking for my legal advice; sometimes they are looking for my opinion; and (2) that great is the enemy of good – i.e., only being willing to settle for perfection can prevent any result (even a good result) being achieved.

What one privacy development are you paying close attention to this month?

Definitely China's new Personal Information Protection Law (PIPL) which will have a significant impact on the privacy compliance practices of companies operating in China.

What do you like to do in your free time?

In my free time I enjoy traveling - I'm one of those people that loves the journey as much as the destination. I also love reading fiction and reformer Pilates.