

Spotlight on Women in Privacy™

Andrea Batalla Eguidazu, Baxter International, Global Senior Counsel



What do you love about being a privacy professional?

As a privacy professional, I derive immense satisfaction from confronting the complexities of global, ever-changing, and intricate privacy regulations. My role demands a deep understanding of the interplay between these regulations, as well as their conflict with other sector-specific regulations, particularly in sectors such as Life Sciences and Healthcare, Finance, and Employment. The task of striking a balance between safeguarding individuals' personal information and fostering technological advancements, which can sometimes be essential for improving our daily lives or even saving lives, is both challenging and rewarding. Working in this field provides me with the opportunity to make a direct impact on people's lives by ensuring that their personal information is handled responsibly, and protected effectively. This contributes significantly to building trust in the digital world, which is crucial for fostering a secure and reliable environment for the exchange of information. I find it particularly fulfilling to be part of a profession that plays such a vital role in shaping the future of technology and privacy.

What was the best professional advice you received?

I would like to share the professional advice I received from three individuals who significantly influenced my career. My mother, when I was contemplating a career in data protection before data was widely recognized as the "new oil," advised me, "If you enjoy what you do, you will excel at your job." My first manager, who was not only an exceptional mentor but also a remarkable person, encouraged me to embrace challenges, follow my insatiable legal curiosity, and dedicate substantial time to my work, which he referred to as "hours of flight." He instilled in me the importance of consistency and dedication to my work. Lastly, my first mentor in-house, whom I deeply respect and now consider a close friend, emphasized the significance of delivering flawless technical legal advice, backed by clear reasoning and proper formatting.

What privacy development are you paying attention to this month?

With my role overseeing global privacy and cyber issues, it's challenging to single out one development. Also, probably by the time I hit "Send" this development will be obsolete given how fast our business area is moving. However, I can say that I closely monitor AI guidelines issued by various Data Protection Authorities and emerging AI frameworks.

What do you do to unwind?

I unwind by spending time with loved ones, traveling, and participating in activities like boxing and power walking, which help me maintain a healthy work-life balance.

// UPCOMING EVENTS:

Women in Privacy – Brussels Luncheon

Wednesday, November 20, 2024 | 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Hilton Grand Place | Brussels, Belgium