Spotlight on Women in Privacy®

Shazia Khan, Axiom Law, Senior Privacy Counsel



What do you love about being a privacy professional?

My journey into privacy began with data mapping exercises even before GDPR, where I worked alongside data consultants to understand how information flows through organizations. That early hands-on experience, combined with my analytical mindset from scientific training, lets me systematically break down privacy challenges into solvable components. Every day presents new puzzles that require both creative thinking and rigorous analysis, whether I'm working with AI governance or traditional privacy issues. I'm particularly energized by those moments when I can help

colleagues understand the importance of privacy and see them become advocates themselves — sharing that "aha" moment when they grasp how privacy protections impact both systems and people.

What was the best professional advice you received?

The best professional advice I received was, "Privacy isn't about saying no; it's about finding ways to say yes responsibly." This advice resonated deeply with me, given my prior experience in transactional finance, where finding creative solutions and navigating complex deals was paramount. It emphasized a proactive and solution-oriented approach to privacy, encouraging me to work collaboratively with teams to find innovative and compliant ways to achieve their objectives while upholding strong privacy protections.

What privacy development are you paying attention to this month?

This month, I'm closely examining the implications of the EDPB Opinion on AI models. The concept of AI model anonymity is particularly intriguing, as it raises important questions about when and how personal data ceases to be processed in the context of AI. Understanding the criteria for determining AI model anonymity has significant implications for organizations developing and deploying AI systems, and I'm eager to see how these guidelines are interpreted and applied in practice.

What do you do to unwind?

To unwind, I enjoy cooking — the structured creativity of following a recipe while adding my own twists provides a nice parallel to privacy work.

// UPCOMING EVENTS:

Women in Privacy – London Luncheon

Wednesday, March 12, 2025 | 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Sidley | London



