



Company Name: Dechert

Industry: Law

Company CEO: Co-Chairs: David Forti and Mark Thierfelder

Company Headquarters Location: Philadelphia, PA;
New York, NY

Number of Employees: Approximately 2,000



Marina Schwarz, Partner

Education: JD, Brooklyn Law School; BS, Boston University

Your Location: New York, NY

Words you live by: Be patient.

Personal Philosophy: Say yes more than you say no. Opportunities tend to come at inconvenient times. Saying yes even when it's hard keeps you in a growth mindset.

What book are you reading? *Yesteryear* by Caro Claire Burke

What was your first job? Selling tickets and collecting mini golf balls at a community driving range and mini golf course.

Favorite charity: Old Friends Senior Dog Sanctuary — an organization dedicated to giving senior dogs love, dignity, and care in their final years.

Interests: Spending time with my family, reading, and traveling.

Family: My husband and three daughters, who keep me busy and teach me something new every day.



How will AI change the STEAM fields over the next five years?

I approach the rise of AI in STEAM with both genuine excitement and careful diligence. The capabilities of AI are expanding rapidly, and there is no question they will reshape how we work, particularly in data-intensive, technically complex fields where the volume of scientific evidence, regulatory records, and expert analysis can be immense. But I hold firmly to the belief that those who have dedicated careers to becoming subject matter experts in STEAM fields bring something AI cannot replicate: expertise earned through experience, nuanced judgment, and deep professional passion. Over the next five years, I expect the most effective practitioners will be those who thoughtfully integrate AI as a tool while remaining the irreplaceable human force behind the strategy, the judgment, and the advocacy.

How important is your STEAM knowledge to your organization?

STEAM knowledge is central to my practice. In product liability and mass tort litigation, the ability to understand and engage with complex scientific and technical subject matter is essential to building effective legal strategy. I am fortunate to work alongside mentors who have done the hard work of bridging the gap between law and science, becoming true subject matter experts in their areas. Their example has shaped the way I approach every case. I know that when I encounter a particularly challenging technical element, I have teammates I can turn to that have successfully combined sharp legal instincts with deep scientific knowledge. That collaborative culture of STEAM fluency strengthens our work at every level, from case assessment and expert engagement to trial preparation and client counsel. In a field where science is always evolving, that collective commitment to understanding it is a genuine competitive advantage.

Describe your experiences as a professional in a STEAM career

Practicing in this space means that STEAM is present in virtually every phase of my work. From reviewing scientific literature and regulatory histories to engaging with expert witnesses and evaluating epidemiological data, the technical dimensions of these cases are constant. What has shaped my experience most, however, is not any single case or challenge but the community of professionals around me at Dechert. I have been fortunate to work with mentors who model what it looks like to be both a skilled lawyer and a genuine subject matter expert in STEAM fields. Their guidance has given me the confidence to engage deeply with complex technical material, and the humility to know when to lean on a teammate's expertise.