



Portfolio Media. Inc. | 230 Park Avenue, 7th Floor | New York, NY 10169 | www.law360.com
Phone: +1 646 783 7100 | Fax: +1 646 783 7161 | customerservice@law360.com

MVP: Dechert's Brenda R. Sharton

By Joyce Hanson

Law360 (November 25, 2025, 4:03 PM EST) -- Brenda R. Sharton of Dechert LLP successfully defended popular menstrual tracking app Flo Health at trial in one of the largest consumer class actions ever in terms of damages claimed — in excess of \$38 billion — earning her a spot among one of the 2025 Law360 Cybersecurity & Privacy MVPs.

Her biggest accomplishment:

Sharton, who is the global chair of Dechert's cybersecurity, privacy and artificial intelligence practice, said Flo Health Inc. in September settled for only \$8 million to resolve the class action in which the plaintiffs were claiming damages in excess of \$38 billion against Flo.

Users had sued in San Francisco federal court over the fertility app's allegedly unlawful sharing of sensitive health data with co-defendant Google and others via online tracking tools.

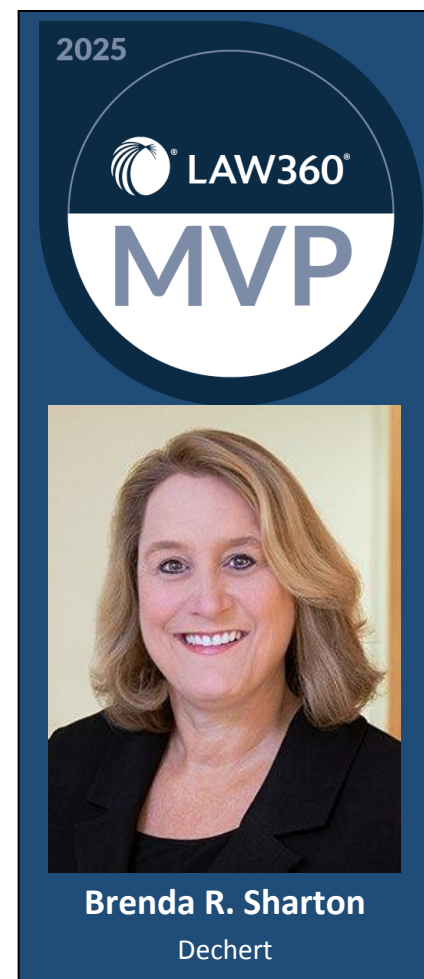
"We successfully defended Flo Health in what was the first big tech privacy jury trial," Sharton said. "With billions of dollars at stake, that claim was existential for our client."

A longtime commercial litigator and managing partner of Dechert's Boston office, Sharton said that Flo Health is the No. 1 health app in the world, with over 400 million downloads.

Serving as lead counsel for Flo Health, Sharton has guided the Dechert legal team to represent the app in regulatory and litigation matters around the world. These include a dozen class actions alleging privacy policy violations in the United States, Canada, Portugal and Israel, along with privacy and cybersecurity counseling.

The Dechert team's win in federal court in San Francisco stemmed from its defense of UK-headquartered Flo against the largest claim in the case, which fell under the California Confidentiality of Medical Information Act.

Sharton said the team moved for a directed verdict after the plaintiffs rested their case, and U.S. District Judge James Donato said he would grant it for Flo Health on the CMIA claim, leaving only a few claims that carried



nominal damages. The judge said there was a complete lack of evidence on the CIMA claim, Sharton said, and that the plaintiffs had failed to show under the standard for a directed verdict on the claim that a reasonable jury could find for the plaintiffs.

"It's a fabulous company and one on which so many millions of women rely, including in many countries where the Flo app is literally the only access to women's reproductive health information," Sharton said. "It was critical that we win. It was not only the biggest accomplishment in terms of our best result for the year, but given the multibillion-dollar level of damages claimed, it was the biggest of my career."

Her biggest challenge:

Dechert's cybersecurity, privacy and artificial intelligence practice is a very busy one, according to Sharton, who noted that all of the group's counseling, data breach response and deal diligence work had to be handled this year in addition to the Flo Health trial.

"With the magnitude of the Flo Health trial, as well as the large work load our team was handling for other clients, the biggest challenge of the year was getting all of the work done," she said. "In addition to the Flo jury trial, which was a round the clock endeavor, we handled numerous large, high-profile data breaches and ransom negotiations, as well as counseling projects, regulatory actions and class actions all over the world. We did it all and our team worked incredibly hard all year to get it all done."

Another challenge stems from the "white hot" nature of cybersecurity and privacy across the legal industry, Sharton said. Since the demand for Dechert's services is so high, she said, the firm's practice is growing and hiring.

"A few dozen lawyers do nothing but this day in and day out, focusing solely on this area," she said. "We are hiring. The matters we are handling is unprecedented, as evidenced by the Flo Health trial and also high-profile data breaches, ransomware attacks and nation-state attacks."

Her proudest moment:

Helping Flo Health clinch its victory at trial — and seeing the client's positive reaction when it was clear that the judge was granting a directed verdict on the largest claim in the case — was Sharton's proudest moment this year.

Flo Health is a "phenomenal" app that has done good for millions of people globally, she said, adding that the company has given away its premium access for free to about 30 million women worldwide.

"To see such a good company saved and vindicated at trial was definitely my proudest moment," Sharton said.

Watching her legal team in action at the Flo Health jury trial also sparked pride for Sharton. She credited younger Dechert partners Benjamin Sadun and Clare Pozos, who helped her try the case, as well as other "terrific" team members, including senior associates Theodore Yale and Allie Ozurovich, who argued some of the evidentiary issues.

What motivates her:

Sharton has been a cybersecurity attorney for decades, having entered the space in the 1990s when the internet was starting to take off and data breaches were just beginning to occur. She recalled thinking at

the time that cybersecurity would be "the next big thing."

She has practiced law for 35 years in Boston, where she started out as a commercial litigator, before launching one of the first formal cybersecurity and privacy practices at her prior firm, Goodwin Procter LLP. Sharton was the recipient of a Law360 MVP award in Cybersecurity & Privacy for 2022 and also for 2024. In addition, Dechert's practice was named in 2022 as a Law360 Practice Group of the Year in Cybersecurity & Privacy.

Helping clients through a crisis is what has motivated Sharton over the course of her career.

"Most of the cases I handle, especially the data breaches, are crises," she said. "The clients' systems are down, or they know they have a threat actor in their system, or they've been hit with a lawsuit, or an employee has taken off with all their trade secrets. What motivates me is that I love being able to be a calming presence and to get them through the crisis. It's very rewarding."

Sharton also enjoys mentoring the next generation of lawyers.

"A huge part of what motivates me is making sure that young lawyers are getting the experience, training and development they need," she said.

Her advice to junior attorneys:

The advice Sharton would give to junior attorneys starting out is to look to the macro environment to see what is happening in the world and get legal expertise related to what they think is coming next.

"Obviously," she said, "artificial intelligence is a huge portion of that. The hockey cliché is to skate to where the puck is going, not to where it is."

Dechert is currently focused on handling matters that involve artificial intelligence, Sharton noted, asserting that AI now encompasses a big part of what the practice does on the counseling, data breach and litigation front.

In one such matter, Dechert has represented Prisma Labs, the company behind the viral AI-powered photo app Lensa. Prisma faced two proposed class actions in Illinois and California federal courts, each seeking billions of dollars in damages and injunctive relief due to the company's alleged mishandling of biometrics contained in a third-party company's database, which it used to train the app's Magic Avatar feature.

Sharton's team obtained precedential wins in the two cases, securing some of the first AI-related class action rulings anywhere in the country.

--As told to Joyce Hanson. Editing by Vaqas Asghar.

Law360's MVPs are attorneys who have distinguished themselves from their peers over the past year through high-stakes litigation, record-breaking deals and complex global matters. A team of Law360 editors selected the 2025 MVP winners after reviewing nearly 900 submissions.