# Cybersecurity & Privacy Group Of The Year: Dechert

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Law360(February 6, 2026, 4:00 PM EST)--Dechert LLP helped menstrual tracking app Flo avoid billions of dollars in damages sought by users in a high-stakes trial challenging the company's alleged sharing of sensitive data with third parties, and it steered more than a dozen fertility clinics through website tracking cases in state and federal court, earning the firm a spot among the **2025 Law360 Cybersecurity & Privacy Groups of the Year**.



Dechert's cybersecurity, privacy and artificial intelligence practice specializes in assisting clients in the healthcare, technology, financial services and other industries through the entire life cycle of matters, from counseling on compliance with a growing patchwork of data privacy and AI laws at the state and international levels and their responses to increasingly sophisticated data breaches,

to guiding them through any resulting — and often precedent-setting — litigation and regulatory investigations.

"We have an incredibly collegial group of extraordinarily hard-working and smart people who are very cohesive, particularly when it comes to coordinating seamlessly on counseling and litigation matters across the globe," said Brenda Sharton, the practice group's global chair. "That makes it so that even when many of our litigators are tied up at trial, our clients still have at their disposal the rest of our team, who are able to step up and handle whatever matters they may have."

That cohesion has helped the team excel during what Sharton described as a particularly busy year for the group, which was headlined by a landmark trial involving its longtime client Flo Health Inc.

The dispute, which marked the first Big Tech privacy class action to reach trial, centered on Flo's allegedly unlawful sharing of users' sensitive health data with co-defendants Google, Meta Platforms and others via online tracking tools. At trial, the plaintiffs**pushed for damages** in the tens of billions of dollars for alleged privacy violations stemming from these practices.

However, after the plaintiffs presented their case to the jury, the Dechert team moved for a directed verdict. That led U.S. District Judge James Donato to indicate outside the presence of the jury that he was planning to **dismiss** the largest claim in the case, which fell under the California Confidentiality of Medical Information Act, due to a lack of evidence, leaving just a few claims that carried only nominal damages.

Within hours of the judge stating that the CMIA claim wouldn't be going to the jury, the parties had reached a settlement requiring Flo to pay **$8 million** to resolve the remaining privacy claims, representing just a fraction of what was sought.

"While the issues involved were cutting-edge, and the fact that this was the first privacy trial involving Big Tech was so important, what for us was most significant is that we were able to help our client in a case that was so existential to them," Sharton said. "If we had lost on the billions of dollars claim, the company would likely no longer exist."

Sharton stressed the broader importance of Flo in the marketplace, pointing not only to its position as the No. 1 health app in the world — with more than 400 million downloads — but also its practice of giving millions of free premium subscriptions in countries where women have little or no access to reproductive healthcare services.

Although Sharton took the lead in the Flo trial and settlement negotiations, she noted that the handling of the high-stakes matter required the entire team to chip in. This included Dechert partners Benjamin Sadun and Clare Pozos, and senior associates Theodore Yale and Allison Ozurovich, who has since been elevated to partner, along with numerous other associates.

The rest of the Dechert team worked on handling additional privacy counseling and data breach issues that arose for other clients during the pendency of the Flo dispute, according to Sharton.

"It really speaks to the depth and breadth of our team that we were able to handle all the other client matters that came in around the time that we were getting ready for a major trial and that everyone stepped up, even scheduling their vacations around the summer trial," Sharton said of her team, which she noted consists of a core of dozens of attorneys around the globe who focus on data privacy, cybersecurity and AI matters on a daily basis.

Aside from its work for Flo, which Dechert has been representing in litigation and regulatory matters since 2019, the practice group handled vital matters over the past year for clients such as Ivy Fertility Services LLC and [Microsoft](#) unit [Nuance Communications Inc](#).

Facing proposed class actions in both state and federal courts over their deployment of website tracking technologies, Ivy Fertility and 13 other clinics turned to the Dechert practice group for assistance.

Through a motion to stay in state court, a motion to strike in federal court and parallel motions to dismiss in both courts — all filed within days of each other — the team narrowed and reshaped the litigation, ultimately leading to the dispute being settled in January 2025 for $850,000 on terms favorable to Ivy Fertility, according to Dechert.

Sharton and her team have also leveraged their decades of experience managing large data breaches in their work for Nuance, which was one of hundreds of companies facing claims in multidistrict litigation in Massachusetts federal court over a 2023 data breach involving [Progress Software](#)'s MOVEit file transfer tool.

The cyberattack, which exploited a security flaw in MOVEit, led to the exposure of records belonging to government agencies and organizations such as Nuance, which provides AI-powered medical dictation software to healthcare systems and hospitals, around the globe that relied on the compromised tool.

The Dechert team secured preliminary approval in August of an [**$8.5 million settlement**](#) between Nuance and more than 1 million patients of healthcare providers whose personal information was exchanged between it and the providers.

The firm also represents 24 of the top 25 asset managers worldwide and provides many with counseling and other legal services in this area. Additionally, the team helped guide a large medical practice conglomerate through both its response to a ransomware attack involving more than 2 million patient records and the resulting legal fallout, which included nearly two dozen state and federal court cases in Maryland, Sharton said.

The practice has welcomed several additions recently, including partner Austin Mooney from [McDermott Will & Schulte](#), senior associate Lydia Lichlyter Speight from the [U.S. Department of Justice](#)'s cybercrime division and healthcare law leader Jennifer Hutchens.

With legal scrutiny in the data privacy, cybersecurity and AI spaces showing no signs of slowing up, Sharton said she expects the practice group to continue to expand to meet growing client demand for experienced counseling and defense services in this increasingly complex area.

"We're doing a lot of AI-related work pertaining to both governance and counseling," Sharton said, pointing to examples such as the group's **successful handling** of biometric privacy litigation for Lensa AI app maker Prisma Labs Inc. last year and the uptick in AI being used as both defensive and offensive tools in the cybersecurity realm.

"Additionally, data breaches continue in earnest, and there's a tremendous amount of litigation that's being filed around pixel tracking on websites and apps," she added. "I've handled data breaches and cyber issues since the 1990s, and every year the frequency and sophistication of data breaches has gone up and to the right. This continues to be an incredibly active area, and I don't see that going away anytime soon."

--Editing by Adam LoBelia.

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