



# Katja Garvey

*partner*

Katja chairs the firm's International Business & Trade Practice Group. She serves clients in a range of privacy and international business matters, from complex international transactions to global privacy compliance. Katja also serves as an Honorary Consul to the Federal Republic of Germany.

**As a German native, her unique perspective, experience and counsel bridge the gap that often exists from a legal and cultural perspective.**

## International business

Katja works with clients outside the United States, particularly German companies, to establish business in the U.S. or advise on existing U.S. operations. She routinely provides the complex legal counsel needed to begin U.S. operations alongside considering potential cultural and practical implications for doing business in the U.S.

She routinely counsels international clients on matters related to cross-border transactions, corporate restructuring, commercial agreements, contract negotiation, data privacy, trade compliance and entity formation. She also has experience guiding business owners as they wind down their businesses.

Katja serves as Honorary Consul to the Federal Republic of Germany in Columbus, Ohio. In her role, she promotes German-U.S. business and cultural relations throughout the Central Ohio region and assists German citizens in various consular issues.

## Data privacy

Katja's robust privacy and data security experience serves clients domestically and abroad. As a Certified Information Privacy Professional/Europe (CIPP/E), Katja creates and manages policies and procedures to ensure clients are in compliance with the European General

## CONTACT

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Pronouns: she / her / hers

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## EDUCATION

The Ohio State University Michael  
E. Moritz College of Law, LL.M.,  
2012

Juristische Fakultät der Universität  
Passau, law degree, 2011

## LANGUAGES

- German, *native*

## SERVICES

### International Business & Trade

- Cross-border M&A
- International trade compliance
- International data privacy
- International entity selection and formation
- Sales representation, distribution and licensing agreements

Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA). She also has experience serving her clients as an external data protection officer (DPO).

In particular, Katja helps clients to draft privacy policies and compliance programs, negotiate data processing agreements and complete data mapping and impact assessments. She provides privacy counsel during M&A transactions and collaborates with foreign counsel to facilitate global privacy protection and compliance.

Clients rely on Katja for her dedication to client service and creative approach to problem solving — even with the most nuanced legal issues. She advises clients with regard to buying and selling businesses, analyzing risk and facilitating appropriate due diligence. She regularly assists companies of all sizes with negotiating commercial agreements between domestic and international parties.

## REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Serve as outside general counsel for a large German-based manufacturing client with U.S. subsidiaries, providing regular guidance in such areas as commercial agreements, corporate restructuring and other legal issues in the U.S., partly through specialized members of the firm's International Business & Trade Practice Group, as well as communication, collaboration and counsel to German in-house legal team.
- Serve as the data protection officer (DPO) for a global nonprofit tech organization based in the state of Ohio with several E.U. and U.K. subsidiaries and provide routine counsel in the areas of privacy and E.U. General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) compliance.

## BAR ADMISSIONS

- Ohio

## PRESENTATIONS

- "Women in Privacy Panel," International Association of Privacy Professionals KnowledgeNet - Columbus Chapter, Oct. 17, 2024
- "Beyond Borders USA –How to Start a Business in the U.S.," Belgian Chamber of Commerce, Oct. 7, 2024
- "Strengthening the Consular Network - Best Practices and Targeted Cooperation," Consular Conference, March 15, 2024
- "E-Mobility, Renewable Energy & Site Selection," German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK) Market Development Program for SMEs, German-US E-Mobility Trade Mission, June 30, 2023
- "First Steps of the Deal: Structuring Considerations – The Same But Different," Panelist, AIJA Corporate and M&A Commission Seminar | "Breakfast in America" – Transatlantic Challenges, June 15, 2023
- "Finding Your Path to Leadership," Panelist, The Ohio State University Michael E. Moritz College of Law, Women in Business Law, March 8, 2023
- "Success in the US: US market entry strategy planning 2023 - Is 'Going West' an opportunity or a pitfall?" German American Chamber of Commerce, Feb. 1, 2023

## SERVICES (CONTINUED)

### Privacy & Data Security

- Data security and breach notification
- U.S. and international privacy regulation
- Records management and privacy policies

### Technology

- Technology transfer and licensing
- Software development, licensing and services

### Business Growth & Operation

- Business transactions
- Business succession planning

### Mergers & Acquisitions

- Transaction structuring
- Due diligence

### Securities

- “Success in the US: Trends in Sales and Recruiting in the US,” German American Chamber of Commerce, Aug. 31, 2022
- “Beyond Borders USA – Legal Considerations,” Belgian Chamber of Commerce, June 29, 2022
- “The Future of Automotive,” International Association of Young Lawyers, May 22, 2022
- “Exporting Basics: A Europe Guide (and Eurovision),” Ohio Small Business Development Center Program of Ohio, May 5, 2022
- “Success in the US: The Successful Strategic Planning of Your US Engagement,” German American Chamber of Commerce, Feb. 16, 2022
- “Professional Growth in the Everchanging ‘New Normal,’” American Bar Association, June 28, 2021
- “Identifying and Counteracting Bias,” AIJA Women Network, Aug. 25, 2020
- “ILS Practitioners Panel,” The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law International Law Society, Nov. 8, 2016
- “Piercing the Corporate Veil,” Friedrich Graf von Westphalen & Partner in Freiburg, Germany, June 23, 2015

## PUBLICATIONS

- “How can I help my client respond to a data incident?” Columbus Bar Association Legal Connections, *Columbus Business First*, April 17, 2020
- “The advantages of a secondment: Forget your FOMO,” *American Bar Association Young Advocates Committee Winter Newsletter*, Feb. 17, 2020
- “Earning an LL.M. shaped my career,” *Columbus Bar Association Lawyers Quarterly*, Fall 2019
- “Out of the office: Progressive policies improve employees’ work/life balance,” *Columbus Bar Association Lawyers Quarterly*, Winter 2018
- “Legal challenges for international corporate groups – An overview about freedom of scope and its limitations in six counties,” *Neue Wirtschafts-Briefe*, Aug. 1, 2015

## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- International Association of Young Lawyers (AIJA), National Representative for the United States
- German-American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest, Board Member
- The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, International & Graduate Affairs Advisory Council, Co-Chair
- European American Chamber of Commerce (EACC)
- International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP), KnowledgeNet former Co-Chair, Columbus Chapter

## CERTIFICATIONS

- International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP), Certified Information Privacy Professional/Europe (CIPP/E), 2020

## HONORS | AWARDS

- *The Best Lawyers in America*®
- Ohio Super Lawyers, Rising Stars Edition
- *Columbus Business First*, 40 Under 40, 2025

## COMMUNITY

- Honorary Consul to the Federal Republic of Germany in Columbus, Ohio
- Supreme Court of Ohio Lawyer-to-Lawyer Mentoring Program, Mentor