

# Maria Aholainen



**Title:** Counsel

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**Languages:** Finnish, English

Maria advises our clients with privacy and data protection law, telecommunications law, and commercial contracts. She advises on all aspects of data protection issues, including multi-jurisdictional GDPR projects and data transfer projects, contract negotiations, data protection disputes, and strategic advice.

Prior to joining Hannes Snellman, Maria worked in a data protection group of a global law firm (2016–2022). Before transitioning into private practice in 2016, Maria worked as a lawyer at the Ministry of Transport and Communications and was responsible for data protection in electronic communications.

Maria is recognised as a rising star in the Legal 500 EMEA 2023, TMT and holds an international certification in privacy and data protection (CIPP/E) awarded by IAPP.

## REFERENCES

- Counsel to Sibanye-Stillwater, a multinational mining and metal group, in their GDPR project, 2024
- Counsel to Cargotec in the partial demerger of Cargotec and separation of Kalmar into a new listed company, 2024
- Counsel to a Finnish delivery company in an appeal under GDPR to the Helsinki Administrative Court and the Supreme Administrative Court in Finland \*
- Seconded Counsel to an airline in a multi-jurisdictional privacy compliance project in Hong Kong aiming to achieve compliance with both GDPR and data protection law in Hong Kong\*
- Counsel to a US-based technology company in a GDPR implementation project in Europe, including all mandatory GDPR documentation\*
- Counsel to a media company in a contract and data transfer project\*
- Counsel to a global IT company in a cross-border data transfer project (BCR project)\*

## RANKINGS

- Rising Star, TMT, Legal 500, 2024
- “Counsel Maria Aholainen has notable expertise in data protection work.”, Legal 500 EMEA 2023, TMT

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## MEMBERSHIPS AND POSITIONS OF TRUST

- Member of the Finnish Bar Association
- Member of the International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP)
- Member of the Finnish IT Law Association
- Certified information Privacy Professional (CIPP/E)

## EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Counsel, Hannes Snellman, Helsinki, 2022–
- Senior Associate, Bird & Bird Attorneys Ltd, 2019–2022
- Associate, Bird & Bird Attorneys Ltd, 2016–2022
- Senior Officer / Lawyer, The Ministry of Transport and Communications in Finland, 2015–2016
- Master of Laws, University of Helsinki, 2015
- Bachelor of Laws, University of Helsinki, 2014
- Bachelor of Arts, University of Helsinki, 2013

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