

Daniel Farris

Partner

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As a former software engineer and network administrator, Daniel Farris brings real-world experience to his practice counseling clients on a wide range of technology issues. His intellectual property practice is founded upon his understanding of how data and technology can enable strategic decision making for his clients and advance their businesses' core missions.

Daniel is a trusted adviser to technology and telecommunication companies, health care providers, financial institutions, national retail and apparel companies, and logistics and manufacturing clients, as well as startups and emerging growth companies. A leader in the digital infrastructure sector, Daniel has handled hundreds of deals for data center owners and operators, hyperscalers, AI hyperscalers, backbone and middle mile network operators, and layered network providers, helping clients navigate the design, construction, leasing, and operation of data centers and networks, fiber infrastructure, cloud services, and network interconnection agreements.

Daniel's practice also encompasses technology transactions, privacy, data security, and information governance, and other related intellectual property matters. He offers deep experience advising clients on software and product development, artificial intelligence, technology licensing, and compliance with a range of U.S. (HIPAA/HITECH, FTC, GLBA, FCRA, CAN-SPAM), foreign (GDPR, EU AI Act, ePrivacy Directive), and industry (PCI DSS, ISO, NIST) regulatory standards.

Prior to Foley, Daniel founded and chaired the technology and privacy practices at several major law firms. He is also a legal tech founder, giving him a unique perspective on the product development, go to market, and risk mitigation issues his clients face.

Representative Experience

Data Center and Hyperscale

- Advised AI hyperscale data center operator on design/build and lease of 800 MW data center from crypto mining operator.*
- Served as project lead for data center owner/operator on deal to secure 1GW renewable power and associated purchase of land and development of 1GW data center campus in Texas.*
- Advised first-ever Tier 4 data center in the United States during design-build, go-live, operation and leasing of halls, cages and racks.*
- Represented construction firm and a renewable energy technology company on the development of a 200,000 sq. ft. data center and adjacent inside-the-meter energy complex.*
- Advised large bitcoin mining company in connection with the development and financing of a 350 MW data center in Texas.*
- Lead negotiation of power purchase and development agreement with incumbent utility, local government TIFs, design/build, and leasing of 200 MW data center in Indiana.*
- Lead project to develop, go to market, and negotiate enterprise licensing agreement with global hyperscaler and market leader in IaaS.*
- Served as lead counsel for largest healthcare provider in Pennsylvania on design/build, migration and operation of dedicated single tenant data center for core hospital operations.*
- Acted as lead outside counsel for publicly traded data center operator in both leasing of new facilities for build-out or retrofitting, as well as negotiation of wholesale and retail colocation agreements with provider's key customers.*
- Represented developer of containerized micro-data centers used for high-speed crypto mining in the purchase of input materials, registration of intellectual property to protect proprietary designs and leasing/sale of containerized data centers to customers.*
- Prepared and negotiated scalable on-demand GPU as a Service agreements.*

Fiber and Digital Infrastructure

- Served as outside general counsel to government-backed 640 mile, 144 strand fiber broadband network, from funding and design-build, through operations and ultimately to divestiture.*
- Negotiated dark fiber IRUs, dim and lit capacity services agreements on behalf of Illinois statewide health care network to facilitate creation of health information exchange.*
- Represented Google Fiber in the design, build and operation of its first metropolitan consumer gig speed network in Kansas City, Missouri.*
- Advised most populous county in Illinois on the acquisition of a large-scale metropolitan fiber network and associated assets, and deployment of same for the creation of publicly owned ISP.*
- Advised competitive local exchange carriers (CLECs) in relation to FCC, NTIA, state utility board filings, reporting, and associated regulatory compliance obligations.*

**Matters handled prior to joining Foley.*

Awards and Recognition

- Notable Leader in Accounting, Consulting, & Law, *Crain's Chicago* (2024)
- Notable Gen X Leader, *Crain's Chicago* (2022)
- Named to FastCase 50 (2020)
- Thought Leader in Cybersecurity, *Crain's Chicago* (2019)
- Trailblazer in Cybersecurity Law, *National Law Journal* (2017)
- *Illinois Super Lawyers*, Rising Star, Technology Transactions (2014-2018)
- Leading Lawyers Emerging Lawyer for Computer & Technology Law, IP Law (2016-2018)
- Corporate LiveWire Global Award for Cyber Security & Data Privacy Law (2016)

Presentations and Publications

Daniel is a frequent presenter at legal and technology conference, and has authored over a hundred articles, white papers, and client alerts during his career. In 2024, he authored a chapter in *The Handbook of Legal Tech*. He has published thought leadership in *Law360*, *American Lawyer*, *Bloomberg Business of Law*, *Reuters*, *De Novo Business Brief*, and *CIO Tech Talk*. He is a past contributor to the *Digital Transformation Success* and *Legal Tech Live* podcasts.

Affiliations

- American Bar Association
- Application Developers Alliance
- Chicago Business Network
- Healthcare Information & Management Systems Society
- Independent Software Developers Forum
- International Association of Privacy Professionals

Sectors

- [Artificial Intelligence](#)
- [Cloud Computing Infrastructure & Solutions](#)
- [Energy & Infrastructure](#)
- [Health Care & Life Sciences](#)
- [Health Tech & Genomics](#)
- [Innovative Technology](#)

Practice Areas

- [Intellectual Property](#)
- [Technology Transactions, Cybersecurity, and Privacy](#)
- [Trademark, Copyright & Advertising Counseling](#)

Education

- Loyola University Chicago School of Law (J.D., cum laude, 2007)
- DePaul University (M.S. 2002)

- Computer and information sciences
- DePaul University (B.S., magna cum laude, 2001)

Admissions

- Illinois
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Federal Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Michigan
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Illinois