



## Telecom

Communications plays a critical role in the economies of all countries around the world, and its importance is only increasing with the rapid development of new technologies and products that revolutionize how people – and devices – communicate. DLA Piper's Telecom practice is built on in-depth knowledge of the commercial, transactional, technical, legal and regulatory issues associated with providing telecommunications services and products, including emerging IoT devices and capabilities.

With telecom lawyers around the globe, our team is well positioned to assist clients with multi-country and global deals as well as with regional and global strategies for product development and market entry. Our experience covers the full spectrum of developed and emerging markets and the complete range of technologies, including wireless, telephony, broadband, Internet, satellite and submarine cables. We also have engineers integrated into our team to enable us to more fully understand the details of complex and/or novel technologies and their impact on the business and regulatory issues of our clients. And the fact that we have offices in over 40 countries throughout the Americas, Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia Pacific – as well as affiliated firms in many regions – means we know the unique regulatory, legal, political and “doing business” issues in each jurisdiction.

Clients turn to us for our decades of telecom industry and regulatory experience helping them to tackle the licensing, regulatory and operational issues important to their current business and future success. We have advised a broad cross-section of the telecommunications and technology sectors on an array of regulatory and business issues, from compliance with traditional telecommunications regulation to securing spectrum and regulatory approvals for emerging technologies. We also are well versed in the full range of industry contracts and agreements and are experienced in crafting novel leasing or sharing arrangements. Finally, our team has substantial experience in securing regulatory approvals for some of the largest industry mergers and acquisitions as well as much smaller spectrum transactions.

Our core areas include:

- Telecom transactions, including mergers and acquisitions
- Spectrum access and use
- Authorizations and licensing
- Foreign ownership approvals

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### RELATED SERVICES

- Intellectual Property and Technology
- Data Protection, Privacy and Security
- Cybersecurity
- Technology Transactions and Strategic Sourcing
- Litigation, Arbitration and Investigations

- Regulatory compliance/enforcement defense
- RF equipment certification
- Content provision/usage
- Satellite/earth station authorizations
- Infrastructure deployment, including tower deals and submarine cables
- Network sharing
- Mobile Virtual Network Operator (MVNO) launches
- Outsourcing of mobile network management
- Procuring IPTV platforms for telecommunications operators

- International Trade, Regulatory and Government Affairs
- Transport
- Corporate

#### RELATED SECTORS

- Technology
- Media, Sport and Entertainment

## INSIGHTS

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### Publications

#### A new EEC coming into play: Key points for electronic communications service providers

15 September 2020

Entities providing an electronic communication service, such as email or video streamed over the Internet, may need to register as an ECS provider in relevant EU nations.

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#### Navigating China Episode 13: (More) Important Developments in China's Privacy and Cyber Laws

10 June 2020

##### [NAVIGATING CHINA: THE DIGITAL JOURNEY](#)

China's privacy and cyber authorities have been busy in the last month enacting substantial enhancements and clarifications to data protection compliance obligations; and even more changes are expected before the end of 2020.

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#### US telehealth update: New federal guidance to state Medicaid agencies suggests more coverage is coming

27 April 2020

A powerful signal that CMS is ready to support targeted interventions in favor of telehealth.

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#### Connected care funding for healthcare providers from the CARES Act

24 April 2020

New funding to promote and support telehealth.

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#### Episode 12: More obligations on Chinese mobile app operators to comply with

9 April 2020

##### [NAVIGATING CHINA: THE DIGITAL JOURNEY](#)

Following the crackdown by Chinese authorities against non-compliant mobile apps in late 2019 (please see Episode 8 in this series), the authorities have issued a series of app compliance guidelines (including the Guide to Self-Assess Illegal Collection and Use of

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Personal Information by Apps, Methods for Identifying Unlawful Acts of Apps to Collect and Use Personal Information, and Draft Specification for Collecting Personal Information in Mobile Applications). These guidelines imposed detailed obligations and practical actions to urge mobile app operators to conduct self-assessments and to rectify any non-compliant data processing practices. Organisations may have noted that some of these guidelines contain conflicting requirements.

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### **FCC declares COVID-19 communications fall within TCPA emergency exemption**

23 March 2020

The FCC issued an order declaring that hospitals, health care providers, state and local health officials, and other government officials may lawfully communicate information about COVID-19 without violating the Telephone Consumer Protection Act.

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### **Episode 10: Stricter data localisation and security rules for financial and insurance data in China**

06 Mar 2020

#### **[NAVIGATING CHINA: THE DIGITAL JOURNEY](#)**

The People's Bank of China has released new guidelines on the collection and processing of personal financial information (PFI Guidelines), which provide much-needed clarity on how personal financial information in China should be processed, secured, and transferred. While the PFI Guidelines do not impose an outright ban on personal financial information leaving China, mandatory compliance steps (including consent and impact assessments) must be taken.

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### **Huawei Temporary General License extended for third time**

14 February 2020

The extension applies to Huawei and the 114 other non-US Huawei affiliates on the Entity List.

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### **Opportunities arising from Asia's data protection frameworks (AsiaPac)**

14 February 2020

The media controversy surrounding China's coronavirus COVID-19 detection app, the "close contact detector," has highlighted a common misapprehension about how data protection law is universally applied around the world.

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### **The almost free US-Japan Trade Agreement is now in effect**

9 January 2020

This trade agreement reduces or eliminates US customs duties on numerous goods.

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### **Eamon Holley discusses new internet calling app on Dubai's Business Breakfast**

24 December 2019

Eamon Holley discusses the legalities surrounding the introduction of the new internet calling app, ToTok, in the United Arab Emirates on Dubai Eye's Business Breakfast.

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### **Episode 8: Crackdown on infringing China apps**

13 November 2019

#### **[NAVIGATING CHINA: THE DIGITAL JOURNEY](#)**

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China's authorities have launched a crackdown against non-compliant mobile apps. The crackdown is taking place during November and December 2019, so businesses operating apps in China must take urgent action or else face sanctions.

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### **Hong Kong's SFC introduces strict conditions on cloud data storage**

8 November 2019

All entities licensed by the Hong Kong SFC and storing data in the cloud must urgently review their data storage arrangements in light of a new circular from the SFC on "Use of external electronic data storage". This circular introduces strict new conditions on both cloud users and cloud vendors.

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### **Episode 7: New China encryption law passed**

6 November 2019

#### **[NAVIGATING CHINA: THE DIGITAL JOURNEY](#)**

The new PRC Encryption Law will come into force on 1 January 2020. It will bring fundamental changes to the sale, import and use of encryption technologies in China by foreign and domestic organizations.

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### **Episode 6: Further developments in PRC data privacy regulations**

1 November 2019

#### **[NAVIGATING CHINA: THE DIGITAL JOURNEY](#)**

An updated draft of China's Amended Personal Information Security Specification (Amended PIS Specification) and proposed new amendments to the privacy specification for mobile apps (App Privacy Specification) were published this week, alongside brand new draft regulations for the banking sector.

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### **Hikvision and other Chinese companies added to the Entity List**

10 October 2019

The list includes Chinese companies in the video surveillance, artificial intelligence, voice recognition, deep learning and other technology fields.

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### **Treasury Department proposes regulations comprehensively implementing FIRRMA and reforming CFIUS national security review**

19 September 2019

The proposed regulations affect non-controlling investments involving critical technologies, critical infrastructure, and sensitive personal data; and transactions involving real estate near sensitive national security facilities.

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### **US Trade Representative publishes fourth list of Chinese products subject to Section 301 tariffs**

19 August 2019

Yet more Chinese products will be subject to an additional 10 percent tariff.

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## Episode 5: Apps are being shut down in China - will yours be next?

12 July 2019

### [NAVIGATING CHINA: THE DIGITAL JOURNEY](#)

While apps are incredibly popular in China, in recent months some have been disappearing from app stores in the country because they do not comply with recent apps regulations. Indeed many companies are not even aware of the comprehensive new privacy compliance obligations for apps in China.

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## Ethiopian Communications Service Proclamation

3 July 2019

The Communications Service Proclamation, which was adopted by the Ethiopian Parliament recently, introduces a number of major changes into the Ethiopian telecom sector. A brief explanation of the major changes is provided below together with some commentary from DLA Piper's telecoms team.

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## Deadlines approaching fast for fourth set of Section 301 tariffs

4 JUN 2019

Companies have the opportunity to present their views on specific products before the list is finalized but there is less than one month before the window closes.

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## Episode 2: New stringent cyber security rules announced in China, what will your business need to do?

29 May 2019

### [NAVIGATING CHINA: THE DIGITAL JOURNEY](#)

Organisations with operations in China must prepare now for new comprehensive cybersecurity rules. The Chinese authorities have announced MLPS "version 2.0", which will come into force on 1 December 2019, and have potential significant impact to businesses' infrastructure and operations in China.

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## Commerce issues Temporary General License for Huawei

22 MAY 2019

The Temporary General License is a brief reprieve.

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## Trump issues Executive Order on securing information and communications technology and services – key points

16 MAY 2019

The order is issued pursuant to the National Emergencies Act and the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, the latter creating potential civil and criminal liability for those violating EOs and regulations issued under its authority - liabilities that can expand to include those who facilitate a violation.

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## Tax incentives in Puerto Rico: a quick introduction

13 JUN 2017

Puerto Rico offers a spectrum of economic incentives aiming to promote many key industries. This handbook offers a quick look at ten of the most significant of these incentives.

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## Events

### Previous

#### Axis Corporate Edition: Telecom

8 December 2020  
Webinar

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#### DLA Piper European Technology Index 2020

31 July 2020  
Webinar

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#### Axis Corporate Edition: Telecom

5 December 2019

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## NEWS

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#### DLA Piper's Luxembourg team enters World Trademark Review ranking

25 February 2021  
Our Luxembourg office is pleased to announce that we have been ranked as a recommended law firm in the World Trademark Review.

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#### DLA Piper wins TMT Finance M&A Global Telecom Deal of the Year

8 December 2020  
DLA Piper is pleased to announce that they have received the TMT Finance M&A Global Telecom Deal of the Year for their representation of T-Mobile and Deutsche Telekom in the T-Mobile-Sprint merger.

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#### DLA Piper and Aldersgate DLS launch TOKO, a fast, secure and cost effective solution for buying and selling high value assets using blockchain technology

5 November 2020  
Global law firm DLA Piper in collaboration with Aldersgate DLS (Digital Ledger Solutions), has launched TOKO, a unique tokenisation engine and vital component in the digital asset ecosystem. Developed with Aldersgate DLS, TOKO provides smart contract functionality and digital asset creation functionality and assurance.

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## **DLA Piper announces partnership promotions for 2020**

30 April 2020

DLA Piper is proud to announce that 67 lawyers have been promoted to its partnership. The promotions are effective as of April 1, 2020 in the United States and May 1, 2020 for EMEA and Asia Pacific. The promotions have been made across many of the firm's practice areas in 35 different offices throughout 13 countries.

Across the firm's practices globally, Corporate saw the largest intake of new partners with 19 promotions, followed by Litigation and Regulatory with 15. Intellectual Property and Technology and Finance and Projects had ten and eight promotions respectively, while there were six in Real Estate. Tax and Employment both had four, and there was one in Restructuring.

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## **DLA Piper lawyers named Acritas Stars**

10 March 2020

Acritas has named over 200 DLA Piper lawyers as 2020 Acritas Stars. Now in its fourth year, Acritas Stars highlights the stand-out lawyers in private practice as nominated by clients around the world. More than 3,000 senior in-house counsel feed into the nomination process to give a comprehensive view of highly recommended lawyers across the globe.

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## **DLA Piper awarded "IP & TMT Law Firm of the Year" at The Chambers Middle East Awards 2019 - its third TMT award in 12 months**

25 November 2019

Global law firm DLA Piper has been named IP & TMT Law Firm of the Year at The Chambers Middle East Awards 2019, making it the third successive TMT legal industry award that the firm has walked away with in the past twelve months and underscoring the firm's continued strength in the technology, media and telecommunications sector.

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## **DLA Piper advises Tirona on the acquisition of a stake in CashCape**

5 September 2019

DLA Piper has advised Tirona Ltd. on the acquisition of a 25 percent stake in the fintech app CashCape.

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## **DLA Piper to advise ITW Global Leaders' Forum on blockchain-based telecoms platform**

2 July 2019

DLA Piper has been appointed to advise the ITW (International Telecoms Week) Global Leaders' Forum (GLF) on the launch of a special purpose vehicle that will develop a live, blockchain-based platform.

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## **DLA Piper advises Rolls-Royce on acquisition of Siemens' eAircraft business**

21 June 2019

DLA Piper has advised Rolls-Royce plc on the acquisition of Siemens' electric and hybrid-electric aerospace propulsion activities, eAircraft. The acquisition will accelerate the delivery of Rolls-Royce's electrification strategy and boost its ambition to play a major role in the "third era" of aviation. The completion of the transaction is expected in late 2019, following a period of employee consultation.

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## DLA Piper announces launch of Artificial Intelligence practice

14 MAY 2019

DLA Piper announced today the launch of its Artificial Intelligence practice, which will focus on assisting companies as they navigate the legal landscape of emerging and disruptive technologies, while helping them understand the legal and compliance risks arising from the creation and deployment of AI systems.

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## DLA Piper wins TMT Team of the Year and Litigation Team of the Year at the Middle East Legal Awards 2019

23 APR 2019

DLA Piper has been named TMT and Litigation Team of The Year at the Middle East Legal Awards 2019, underscoring the firm's continued strength in the technology, media and telecommunications sector as well as its leading practice in complex dispute resolutions.

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## DLA Piper announces partnership promotions for 2019

1 APR 2019

DLA Piper is proud to announce that 77 lawyers have been promoted to its partnership. The promotions are effective as of April 1, 2019 in the United States and May 1, 2019 for EMEA and Asia Pacific. The promotions were made across many of the firm's practice areas in 43 different offices throughout 20 countries.

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## DLA Piper hosts leading business and diplomacy conference

14 MAR 2019

DLA Piper's London office has hosted the Annual Conference of the International Diplomatic and Business Exchange (IBDE).

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## Recognitions

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- *Law360* named the DLA Piper Telecom group as a 2020 "Practice Group of the Year"
- *Chambers Global* ranks DLA Piper in Band 1 for TMT
- *Chambers USA* ranks the DLA Piper Telecom group in Band 2 in the area of Telecom, Broadcast & Satellite in District of Columbia
- *USLegal 500* ranks the DLA Piper Telecom group in Tier 1 in the areas of Telecoms and Broadcast: Transactional and Regulatory
- *Best Lawyers* ranks DLA Piper in Tier 1 for Communications Law
- *U.S. News and Best Lawyers* named the DLA Piper Telecom group "Communications Law Firm of the Year"
- *TMT Finance* recognized the T-Mobile US' merger with Sprint as their "Telecom Deal of the Year – Global"
- T-Mobile recognized the DLA Piper Telecom group with their "Award for Law Firm Excellence in Diversity"