

Spotlight on Women in Privacy®

Nathalie Barrera, Palo Alto Networks, Managing Senior Privacy Counsel, leading EMEA and LATAM



What do you love about being a privacy professional?

Being a privacy attorney means working in one of the most dynamic and ever-evolving fields, especially at the intersection of privacy and cybersecurity. Each day brings unique challenges: engaging in complex negotiations with diverse customers regarding our products and how these secure and protect their data, identifying solutions to assist our sales teams, or collaborating on projects that enhance our business initiatives in the constantly changing digital landscape. With data-related laws continually shifting around the globe, the role evolves all the time, adding an element of excitement and ensuring I stay sharp. I enjoy helping global companies navigate these complexities,

which not only helps safeguard their data and that of their users, but also fosters trust and contributes to a safer, more secure online environment.

What was the best professional advice you received?

The best professional advice I have received comes in two parts: First, stay curious and always keep learning. In a field like privacy and cybersecurity, where fast pace is the norm, this advice has been invaluable. It has shifted my mindset to prioritize continuous growth, which drives me to explore new ideas and perspectives. Second, surround yourself with smart and kind individuals who challenge you every day. The importance of having supportive, insightful colleagues is invaluable. Their input and expertise encourage me to approach problems differently and broaden my perspective. Together, these two principles—a commitment to lifelong learning and a collaborative, stimulating environment—have been central to my professional growth and continue to shape my career.

What one privacy/cyber development are you paying close attention to this month?

It's hard to narrow it down to just one, especially since I'm responsible for such a broad region like EMEA and LATAM. However, in the past few months, I have been particularly focused on several pivotal developments in European data legislation that have notable implications for global privacy and cybersecurity. These include the AI Act, the Network and Information Security Directive (NIS2), and the Digital and Operational Resilience Act. These regulations are especially important because of the complex requirements they impose on companies operating worldwide, including Palo Alto Networks.

What do you do to unwind?

Nothing beats a nice glass of wine paired with wonderful people. I also enjoy traveling with my family—discovering new places and immersing myself in different cultures is always an adventure and a fantastic way to recharge.

// UPCOMING EVENTS:

Women in Privacy – London Luncheon

Wednesday, March 12, 2025 | 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Sidley Austin LLP | 70 St Mary Axe, London EC3A 8BE