



Peter Leonard

Principal, Data Synergies Pty Limited

Professor of Practice, UNSW Business School

Peter Leonard is a data and technology business consultant and lawyer.

Through his consultancy, Data Synergies, Peter focusses upon:

- advising data informed businesses and government agencies on business and legal strategy and design, particularly in relation to advanced data analytics and artificial intelligence applications applied in regulated sectors or using sensitive data sets,
- assisting organisations to develop and implement frameworks, processes and practices (including technical, operational, contractual and other legal safeguards) for automation assisted decision making and data handling and governance in accordance with international best practices for organisations and agencies operating within complex multi-party data ecosystems and using AI&ML and advanced data analytics services,
- dealings with government, policy makers, and regulators, in Australia, New Zealand and ASEAN.

Data Synergies works at the synergy of:

- privacy, data protection, surveillance and technologies specific laws,
- consumer protection and competition law and regulation,
- trade secrets and other intellectual property laws,
- industry self-regulation, and
- contracts and socially responsible business practices.

Peter is a part-time Professor of Practice (across the Schools of Taxation & Business Law and IT Systems & Management) at UNSW Sydney Business School. Peter conducts the AGSM MBA *Law, Regulation and Ethics* Intensive Course.

He frequently presents and conducts workshops on topics within his areas of focus, including the AI Law and Ethics Masterclass for the NSW Government's AI Thought Leaders' Summit in December 2019 and again in May 2020.

Peter was a founding partner of Gilbert + Tobin, now a large Australian law firm. Following his retirement as a G+T partner in 2017, he continues to assist G+T as a part-time consultant. He has worked as a legal and commercials adviser to global and Asia Pac data, communications and technology businesses for over thirty-five years.

Peter chairs the Australian IoT (Internet of Things) Alliance's Data Access, Use and Privacy work stream, the Law Society of New South Wales Privacy and Data Committee and the Australian Computer Society's Artificial Intelligence and Ethics Technical Committee.

Peter regularly represents the Law Council of Australia before Parliamentary Committees on references relating to communications, technology, privacy, surveillance and human rights.

Peter serves on a number of boards of directors, including iProcedures (a medtech company) and Iridium Satellite Australia and as chair of Dynamic Crowd Measurement. Peter also serves on a number of advisory boards, including of the NSW Government's Data Analytics Centre, the Australian Human Rights Commission's Technology and Rights Project and Food Agility CRC's agtech and ag data expert advisers.

He is a former global chair of the International Bar Association's Technology Committee, a former global vice-chair of the IBA's Communications Committee, and a former director of iappANZ (International Association of Privacy Professionals Australia and New Zealand).

He was voted by legal sector peers as Sydney Technology Lawyer of the Year 2016 (Best Lawyers Global) and one of the global top 35 communications lawyers (Who's Who Legal UK).

He is rated 'top tier' in major legal directories, including in the 11th edition of The Best Lawyers in Australia in the fields of Commercial Law, Defamation and Media Law, Entertainment Law, Information Technology Law, Outsourcing Law, Privacy and Data Security Law and Telecommunications Law.

He is also an author of many articles and chapters in books in his areas of practice. He is a contributing editor of Communications Law and Policy in Australia, the leading Australian loose-leaf service in communications law.