

## Litigation

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# The Next Big Thing: 'Internet of Things' Litigation And Regulatory Risk

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Most lawyers have heard of the "Internet of Things." Business leaders, after all, are busy making the Internet of Things (IoT) the next great wave of innovation to sweep across the global economy. Apple, AT&T, Cisco, General Electric, Google, Honeywell, Intel, Microsoft, Oracle, Panasonic, Samsung, and scores of others have been investing in the IoT for years. With current predictions of a \$15 trillion IoT market in fewer than 10 years, it is easy to understand why so many industry giants have made the IoT a strategic priority.

How could the market grow that rapidly? For one thing, the core technology driving the IoT has long existed, and real-world examples of IoT systems abound.

As importantly, there are widespread efforts to create mass adoption. Leading standard-setting organizations are working



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with representatives across industries to define and standardize technical minutiae, while hundreds of members participate in various IoT industry and advocacy groups.

The challenge for lawyers assessing the litigation and regulatory risks posed by the IoT is significant due to its complexity and

seemingly limitless applications across the consumer, commercial, and industrial economies.

Nonetheless, the basic technical and commercial structure of the IoT can be understood by lawyers, and, with that information, the risk assessment

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