



# IAPP Canada Symposium 2026

Privacy | AI governance | Cybersecurity law

Conference 4-5 May

Workshops 6 May

Training 6-7 May

**TORONTO**

**#IAPPSymposium26**

# WHAT IN THE WORLD?

The Privacy and AI Landscape  
South of the Border

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# WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS



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# AGENDA OUTLINE

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Patchwork Nation: The Fragmented US Digital Regulation
- III. Key Themes In Regulation, Enforcement and Litigation
  - i. Digital Advertising and Its Discontents
  - ii. Sensitive Data, National Security and Reputation
  - iii. Online Safety
  - iv. The Emerging Law(s) of AI
- IV. Questions



# Patchwork Nation: The Fragmented US Digital Regulation

## Consumer Protection Statutes

- E.g. FTC Act Section 5
- Prohibit “unfair or deceptive” conduct

## Anti-Spam Laws

- E.g. CAN-SPAM, TCPA
- Regulate unsolicited communications

## Sectoral Privacy Laws

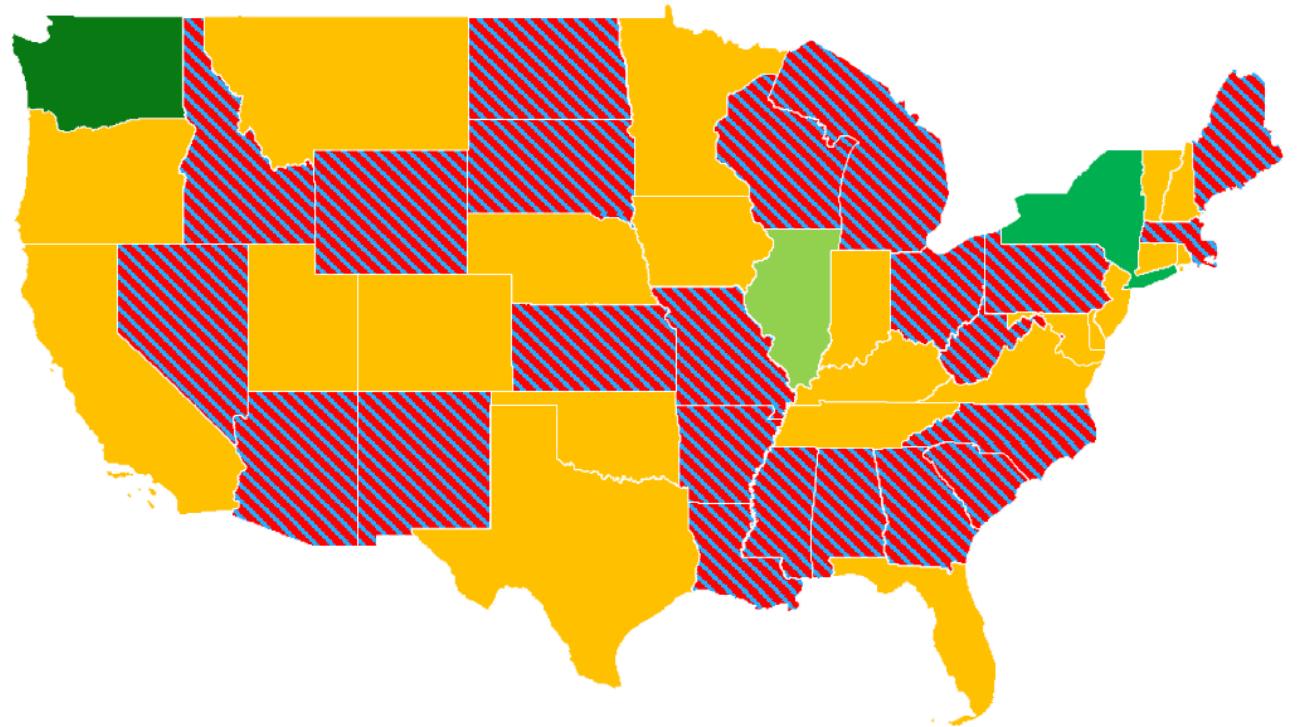
- E.g. HIPAA, GLBA, FERPA
- Regulate specific sectors

## State Consumer Privacy Laws

- E.g., CA, VA, CO, CT
- Comprehensive data protection rights

## Issue- and Sector-Specific State Laws

- E.g., IL BIPA, NY CDPA, WA MHMDA



# Moving Past the Headlines: The Wild West?

- **Shift from sectoral protection to sectoral exclusion:** 21 states have enacted comprehensive privacy laws modeled to varying degrees on GDPR, with important exclusions for regulated sectors and small businesses.
- **Federalism as a force multiplier:** States play off each other, leading to compounding risk.
- **Politics drives enforcement priorities:** Privacy and digital regulation cross political lines, often driven by headlines.
- **Litigation creates zones of heightened risks:** Private rights of action drive legal risk.



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# Digital Advertising and its Discontents

- **Opt-out of Sale/Sharing & Universal Opt-Out Mechanisms (UOOMs / GPC):**  
Coordinated enforcement sweep (Sept 2025) (CA,CO,CT)
- **Recent enforcement signals:** Healthline (\$1.55M) (July 2025) (health data + purpose limitation + deficient vendor contracts); Honda (\$632k) (March 2025) (improper DSAR forms; asymmetric cookie banners), Tractor Supply (\$1.35M) (Sept 2025) (ineffective opt-outs; deficient contracts),
- **Data Minimization & Risk Assessments** — Maryland's "reasonably necessary and proportionate" standard (strictest in U.S.); CCPA risk assessments now required for selling/sharing PI for targeted ads (Jan 1, 2026)
- **California DELETE Act** — universal deletion; consumer requests live Jan 2026, broker compliance Aug 1, 2026; \$200/day/consumer for missed deletions; CalPrivacy launched a dedicated Data Broker Strike Force
- **Litigation Trends** — Wiretap Acts/CIPA – cookie banners, session replay, now AI...

# Sensitive Data, National Security, and Reputation

- **Kids data as sensitive data:** Parental consent requirements for kids under 13; opt-in consent (or outright bans) for targeted advertising to teens; new flowdown requirements and intersection across state age verification laws.
- **Biometric privacy risks find new expressions:** Biometric litigation meets a new suite of AI-based tools.
- **Health data and inferences:** Regulators and litigators show increasing sophistication and technological knowhow.
- **Location data under the microscope:** From sensitive data restrictions to outright bans in Virginia, Oregon and Maryland.
- **National security as privacy:** Access to data by actors associated with China, Russia and other countries of concern likely to impact Canadian companies.

# Online Safety: Age Verification & Youth Safety

**Takeaway: The US is moving from “child privacy” to mandatory age assurance – but through a messy state-led patchwork.**

- **Federal momentum, but no law.**
- **Age checks spreading beyond adult sites:** States are moving age assurance upstream to app stores, operating systems and platform design defaults.
- **Adult-content laws got major boost:** Free Speech Coalition v Paxton upheld Texas’s age-verification law, reinforcing wave of adult-site age-gating laws.
- **Enforcement is becoming operational:** Roblox settlements show regulators using child-safety cases to demand product changes, not just penalties.

# Online Safety: Content Moderation & Platform Liability

**Takeaway: The liability theory is shifting from “you failed to moderate content” (blocked by 230) to “you designed an unsafe product.”**

- **Section 230 still matters but design claims getting around it.**
- **Plaintiffs reframing platforms as products:** Infinite scroll, autoplay, notifications, recommendation systems, and chat are being challenged as design choices.
- **Recent verdicts raise the stakes:** CA and NM cases show juries are receptive to youth-safety theories framed around addictive design platform architecture.
- **Practical implication:** a governance obligation – document design decisions, test youth-risk mitigations, and align public claims with risk controls.

# The Emerging Law(s) of AI

- Moving through a mix of executive actions, agency guidance and state laws
- Federal policy emphasizes civil rights, fairness, transparency and accountability but *voluntary* vs binding
- All 50 states (including D.C. and territories) have introduced AI-related bills covering algorithmic discrimination, transparent disclosure, AI-generated content, government use and worker protections
- Current administration less focused on trustworthy AI and more focused on innovation and competitiveness

# U.S. Legislation vs The EU AI Act

| Feature                 | U.S. (Federal & State Patchwork)   | EU AI Act (Single, Comprehensive)  |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Regulatory Model</b> | Sectoral approach + agency enforcement + state laws; heavy use of guidance and existing ancillary laws (privacy, consumer protection, civil rights)  | Horizontal, standalone AI regulation applying broadly across sectors, little linkage with other regulation   |
| <b>Core concepts</b>    | Risk and harm are central but not yet organized into a single statutory risk taxonomy; NIST AI RMF is voluntary but influential                      | Formal risk tiers: unacceptable, high-risk, limited-risk, minimal-risk, with obligations tied to category  |
| <b>Areas of focus</b>   | Executive orders, agency guidance (FTC, CFPB, EEOC, HHS, etc.), NIST AI RMF, state AI/ADM laws, consumer protection, privacy and anti-discrimination | Direct obligations on “providers” and “deployers” of AI systems and GPAI models; conformity assessments, technical documentation, CE-like regime                         |
| <b>Scope</b>            | Varies by state and sector; examples: algorithmic discrimination, transparency, impact assessments, procurement rules, deepfake labeling             | Detailed obligations for high-risk systems (data governance, documentation, human oversight, robustness, post-market monitoring) and transparency for chatbots/deepfakes |
| <b>Enforcement</b>      | Mix of federal agencies + state AGs; penalties via existing statutes and new state AI laws (e.g., Colorado SB 24-205)                                | Significant administrative fines (up to the greater of €35M or 7% global turnover for certain)   |

# AI: Practically Speaking

## AI Inventory & Classification

- Inventory of all AI systems (internal + vendor)
- Categorize by risk: consequential decisions, customer-facing, internal

## Impact Assessments & Risk Management

- Impact Assessments for higher-risk uses
- Evaluate discrimination risk, privacy impacts, ADM
- Align to a framework (NIST AI RMF)

## Data Governance & Controls

- Document decisions, mitigations, approvals.
- Maintain human review
- Cross functional working committee
- Policies for use, testing, approvals
- Test pre-deployment; monitor for drift, fairness, performance
- Deploy appropriate training
- Integrate AI risk into incident response plans

## Transparency & Communication

- Provide notice when consumers interact with AI
- Label synthetic or AI generated content
- Offer plain language explanations

## Consumer Rights

- Appeal mechanisms and human intervention paths
- Allow for correction of inaccurate data

## Vendor Management

- Update contracts and monitor compliance
- Consider how AI affects needed security controls, permissible data use, etc.
- Update due diligence processes

# Federal Landscape



- **(Still) No Federal Omnibus Privacy Law** – SECURE Data Act (House Energy & Commerce) is notably aligned with state laws; children’s privacy; mid-terms approaching
- **FTC’s Priorities:** Kids safety/COPPA; deception enforcement (Disney, Match/OkCupid, GM/OnStar); TAKE IT DOWN Act enforcement begins May 19, 2026



# How Did Things Go? (We Really Want To Know)

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Thank you!

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