

## Rising Star: Octillo's Myriah V. Jaworski

By Ben Kochman

*Law360 (June 3, 2022, 4:00 PM EDT)* -- Octillo Law PLLC's Myriah Jaworski represents several app developers facing novel legal claims, including the creator of a personality test that was at the center of the Cambridge Analytica data privacy scandal, earning her a spot among the cybersecurity and privacy practitioners under age 40 honored by Law360 as Rising Stars.

### ***BIGGEST CASE OF HER CAREER:***

Jaworski represents Aleksandr Kogan, a data researcher who developed a personality quiz app that collected information from millions of unwitting Facebook users and their Facebook friends, in ongoing multidistrict litigation that accuses Kogan, Facebook and the political consulting firm Cambridge Analytica of breaching privacy and consumer protection laws.

Representing Kogan has tested Jaworski's skills as a litigator and has also involved some crisis communications, with the episode spurring international conversations about how social media giants handle user data, the attorney said.

"Our representation of Kogan came at a time when consumers were becoming very aware of how and for what purposes their data was shared on platforms like Facebook," Jaworski said. "It's exciting to be advising a client in this type of first-of-its-kind case that garnered so much national attention."

### ***MOST INTERESTING CASE SHE'S WORKED ON LATELY:***

Jaworski is representing app developer LMK against claims that harassing messages received through its anonymous messaging platform helped lead to the June 2020 suicide of 16-year-old Carson Bride.

The lawsuit, whose defendants also include Snapchat and the YOLO chat app, is part of a trend of cases in which plaintiffs are attempting to hold app developers liable for the activity that takes place on their

2022



**Myriah V. Jaworski**  
Octillo

**Age:** 39

**Home base:** San Diego

**Position:** Partner

**Law school:** Syracuse University  
College of Law

**First job after law school:**  
Attorney in the U.S. Department  
of Justice's Environment and  
Natural Resources Division

platforms, Jaworski said. Bride's family and other plaintiffs in the case have made several novel arguments that Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act — which immunizes online platforms from content posted by third parties — should not apply in Bride's case.

"There seems to be a tendency now from plaintiffs in these cases to attempt to create tort claims to get around Section 230's liability shield," Jaworski said. "I've appreciated the opportunity to be involved in some interesting and novel conversations in the liability and app space."

#### ***WHY SHE'S A DATA PRIVACY ATTORNEY:***

After working in the U.S. Department of Justice's Environmental and Natural Resources Division, Jaworski began working on privacy and cybersecurity cases soon after arriving in private practice, where she founded a crisis response team at a midsize regional firm.

With the spike of data security episodes across the globe, "very quickly, crisis response became incident response," Jaworski said.

In 2018, Jaworski co-founded Octillo, a women-owned business and one of the few law firms in the U.S. focused exclusively on cybersecurity compliance, incident response and litigation.

"We saw an opportunity in the market to become a specialized data privacy and security firm, and we jumped," Jaworski said. "There is an enormous demand for these services, and the reality is that this is all we do."

#### ***WHAT MOTIVATES HER:***

As Octillo's privacy litigation team leader, Jaworski said she's definitely motivated to achieve the best litigation outcomes for her clients.

But she's also motivated to offer clients what she calls a "360-degree holistic approach to data privacy and cybersecurity," helping them develop improved protocols for handling personal data and preparing them for potential data security incidents.

"Our clients will have a better cybersecurity and privacy posture than they did before they came to us," Jaworski said.

#### ***HOW SHE THINKS HER PRACTICE WILL CHANGE IN THE NEXT 10 YEARS:***

Jaworski said "real legal risk and real legal opportunity" will emerge as companies build platforms in the digital and virtual reality environments known as the "metaverse."

"We are absolutely seeing a migration of brands, advertisers and entertainment to the metaverse, and with that there will be questions about what framework for data privacy will apply in those spaces," Jaworski said.

Jaworski added that she could envision a world in which employers have migrated onto the metaverse, and where remote work involves employees installing certain sensors in their homes, which could raise surveillance concerns.

"If you are being constantly surveilled in the metaverse, that is a big issue for the future of my legal practice," she said.

— As told to Ben Kochman

*Law360's Rising Stars are attorneys under 40 whose legal accomplishments belie their age. A team of Law360 editors selected the 2022 Rising Stars winners after reviewing more than 1,350 submissions. Attorneys had to be under 40 as of April 30, 2022, to be eligible for this year's award. This interview has been edited and condensed.*

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