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In The News

# Akerman's Michael Adler Discusses Turning AI Governance Into a Competitive Advantage on the *People in Legal* Podcast

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Akerman Director of AI Governance and Data Protection Michael Adler appeared on the *People in Legal* podcast at the Legal Geek Conference in London, discussing how organizations can build AI governance that is practical and defensible, and why a strong compliance program can help a company win business and adopt new technology faster.

Many people think of compliance as "almost like a four letter word," Michael said, but done well it is a business asset that pays off in practical ways. "If it's a business and you have a good compliance program, it helps you win deals," he said. Buyers and investors, he noted, also increasingly look at a company's AI governance during diligence.

A strong program also helps a company move faster, Michael explained. He compared governance to a chief financial officer's spending approvals, where clear delegations of authority help an organization act quickly instead of slowing it down. "The better program you have in place, the more comfortably and quickly your company can adopt and leverage that technology efficiently," he said.

Michael also noted that AI often evolves on a cycle of four to six months, and said organizations need to be able to adjust how they use AI and put guardrails in place through both policy and technology.

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Michael Adler

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Drawing on his work leading AI governance inside Akerman and advising its clients, Michael said "there is no such thing as perfect governance," encouraging organizations to have "a really good defensible narrative" for what they have and have not implemented and to show "intentionality and good faith in a good process."

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