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Iftimie describes his practice as helping clients in cyber-security crises to see around corners.

As the co-chair of MoFo's global risk and crisis management practice, he has advised clients in some of the largest data security incidents in history, including FireEye's investigation into the SolarWinds compromise. A former national security official in the Justice Department, his work now includes leading ransomware negotiations and forensic investigations of cyber incidents for clients, dealing with law enforcement and helping companies prevent future attacks.

"Cyber incidents require a crisis response to quickly take command of the facts, to anticipate the need to defend an organization across numerous forums ... and ultimately to mitigate business risk," he said. "Clients don't just want to know what the law is, they want practical business advice within the constraints of the law."

The son of two software engineers, he said he "grew up in Silicon Valley tearing computers apart and putting them back together."

Now, several of his clients are important players in information technology, including the cybersecurity giant FireEye, which brought in Iftimie and his team when the company discovered it had itself been hacked.

Their work included advising FireEye on communicating with Congress and law enforcement during its investigation of the breach.

"That investigation led to the dis-

covery of the supply chain compromise of SolarWinds software by state-sponsored actors ... that the U.S. government later attributed to the Russian intelligence services," he said.

He is also working with a top cyber-security company that is developing threat intelligence about criminals and others operating on the dark web, including by obtaining information from and making purchases on dark web forums. He is advising the client on "how to manage that kind of program safely [and] do it within the bounds of the law."

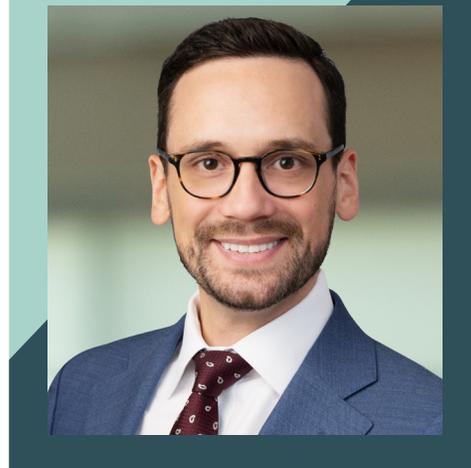
Early in 2020, he co-led the investigation and response for Cognizant, one of the largest global providers of IT services, when it was hit with a ransomware attack known as Maze. He advised the company on its customer and regulatory communications and counseled top executives.

Ransomware attacks are becoming so common that Iftimie has had to deal with more than a dozen in the last year alone.

In a sobering sidelight to that work, he and MoFo's sanctions compliance team advised two companies that discovered they had unwittingly paid ransoms to an entity under U.S. sanctions. "We've been advising companies on how to protect themselves in that context and make voluntary self-disclosures to the Treasury Department," Iftimie said.

Another matter that he and a partner handled pro bono ended happily this summer. They represented six senior executives at the parent

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organization of the Voice of America who were suspended and retaliated against for resisting actions taken by the organization's political leadership.

The MoFo team represented them within the State Department. The executives were fully exonerated and returned to work in July.

— Don DeBenedictis