

RECOGNITIONS

National Law Journal Names George Mastoris a 2019 Technology Law Trailblazer

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Winston & Strawn Partner George Mastoris has been named a Technology Law Trailblazer by the *National Law Journal*. This inaugural list profiles attorneys who are innovative thought leaders and who have made significant marks on the practice, policy, and technological advancements of their sectors.

The publication highlights George's trailblazing work in the technology sector including his work for Gladius, a startup which leverages blockchain technology to help content distributors protect themselves against cyberattacks. During Gladius's 2017 initial coin offering (ICO), George and his team proactively worked with Gladius to register their token as a security. As a result, they were assessed a zero penalty and more importantly were able to obtain language in the order that might be able to de-register the tokens down the road if appropriate. "This is the only agreement that includes that provision, and it was important to the company," he said.

As for the future legal landscape surrounding blockchain, George believes that the SEC is trying to balance the need to protect investors against the downside of stifling innovation and driving companies out of the country. "This is an area where Congress could possibly help. Some bills have been introduced, but nothing comprehensive. The problem is that tokens share some similarities with securities, but they have important differences as well, and it's going to take some time before we get to the right balance."

View George's full Trailblazer profile here.

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