

Featured in Law360: Calif. Ruling Lowers Bar For Health Data Breach Claims

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A recent California Supreme Court decision raises the stakes for companies facing data breaches. In *J.M. v. Illuminate Education Inc.*, the Court issued a mixed ruling, finding that an education technology company that incidentally stores health-related data cannot be held liable as a “provider of health care” under the California Medical Information Act. But in its ruling, the Court also adopted a more plaintiff-friendly standard for data breach liability writ large, allowing individuals to bring claims simply by alleging a significant risk of unauthorized access to their data—even if their data was never actually accessed or misused. Given this relaxed pleading standard, the Court’s ruling will likely result in an uptick in data breach litigation, while underscoring the importance of preventative measures and timely mitigation by companies that collect or maintain consumer data.

[Read the article](#) to learn more.

Naomi May advises companies and organizations that deliver educational products and services at all stages of learning, from early childhood education to workforce development. Innovators, investors and operators in the space – whether early-stage edtech founders or established university leaders – rely on her for practical, business-minded counsel to help them navigate a complex regulatory environment.

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