

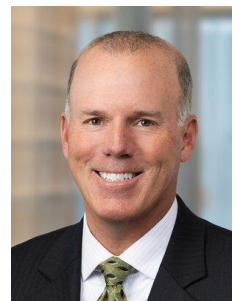
Morgan Lewis Hires New CIO From Dechert

By **Daniel Moritz-Rabson**

Law360 (April 22, 2026, 11:06 AM EDT) -- Morgan Lewis has hired a new chief information officer with 15 years of leadership experience at major law firms to strengthen its technology and cybersecurity capacities.

The firm announced Wednesday that it hired Michael Rinehart from Dechert LLP, where he spent almost five years as chief information officer.

Rinehart told Law360 Pulse that he was drawn to Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP due to its collaborative culture and focus on aligning technology with the firm's broader priorities.



Michael Rinehart

"There's a real opportunity to continue building on a solid foundation — strengthening infrastructure, supporting evolving ways of working, and ensuring that the firm's technology environment enables both its lawyers and its broader strategic priorities," he wrote in an email Tuesday.

Rinehart noted that his experience building security programs that are "both robust and practical" prepares him well to help Morgan Lewis' attorneys work efficiently while safeguarding clients' information.

Rinehart graduated from Drexel University with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering, according to his LinkedIn. He joined laboratory products distributor VWR International as director of e-business in 2002 and rose through the company's ranks to become vice president of corporate information services.

In 2011, he became CIO at Fox Rothschild LLP. He directed the firm's information services as it grew substantially to be a top 100 firm and executed multiple mergers. During his time at the firm, he led the development of an IT modernization program.

In 2021, he joined Dechert, where he led innovation efforts and pushed for early adoption of AI technologies. He helped implement a "build first" strategy as the firm developed its own generative AI tools, including DechertMind, a chatbot resembling ChatGPT. Rinehart told Law360 Pulse that, in 2023, he also helped roll out a firm-wide training program to promote responsible use of AI.

Morgan Lewis said in its news release that Rinehart would work closely with Colleen Nihill, its chief AI and knowledge management officer.

"Technology is central to how we operate and deliver value to our clients," Tony Licata, Morgan Lewis' chief operating officer said in the news release. "[Rinehart's] collaborative approach will help ensure our lawyers have the systems and support they need, while we continue to advance our technology priorities in coordination with our AI and knowledge management initiatives."

Rinehart told Law360 Pulse that AI offers new ways for firms to manage workflows and information but also "introduces new considerations around data governance, model usage, and how information flows through systems," noting that tools need to be used in ways that align with firms' existing controls.

Cyberattacks targeting law firms spiked in 2025, according to a recent BakerHostetler report, which noted that AI both created new vulnerabilities for victims and enabled hackers to find security failures more quickly.

Morgan Lewis' prior CIO, Steve Naphy, joined Wachtell Lipton Rosen & Katz in March 2026, according to his LinkedIn.

--Additional reporting by Allison Grande and Sarah Martinson. Editing by Alyssa Miller.