



Laura Ferguson is an Associate Attorney in Locke Lord LLP's Houston office where she assists clients with a wide variety of tax and employee benefits matters. She regularly assists clients with drafting, reviewing and amending all types of retirement and welfare plans for compliance with the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, the Internal Revenue Code, and other applicable federal or state laws. Laura also assists clients with applications for determination letters for their benefit plans from the Internal Revenue Service, identifying and resolving benefit plan document and/or operational failures through the preparation and submission of voluntary compliance program applications to the IRS and/or DOL, and assisting with IRS and DOL audits.

Laura also counsels clients with respect to the privacy and security rules under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act by preparing policies and procedures, negotiating business associate agreements with vendors, providing on-site training to staff, and conducting Breach Notification Rule risk assessments and drafting notifications in the event of a breach of protected health information. In addition to health privacy laws, Laura also works in the general privacy law area and is an IAPP Certified Information Privacy Professional/United States (CIPP/US). She assists clients with the development of comprehensive privacy and data security policies and provides guidance on privacy-related issues, including the handling of data breach responses.