

Michael McGinley

SENIOR OF COUNSEL

Corporate
Washington, D.C.

mmcginley@wsgr.com
202-378-9055



FOCUS AREAS

Artificial Intelligence and
Machine Learning

Corporate

Data, Privacy, and
Cybersecurity

Defense Tech

EXPERIENCE

Michael (Mike) McGinley is Senior Of Counsel at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, where he advises clients in the defense technology sector, leveraging his extensive experience in defense innovation, government acquisitions, contracting, and compliance requirements.

Prior to joining the firm, Mike led national defense technology accounts for Google Public Sector, advising clients on defense, AI, cybersecurity, and cloud solutions. Previously, he was appointed by the Secretary of Defense to establish and lead the Boston office of the Defense Innovation Unit (DIU), the Department of Defense's innovation arm, where he developed strategy, led defense business development, and regularly engaged with senior Defense Department leaders, members of Congress, and allied officials. During his time at DIU, he launched initiatives including the GigEagle talent marketplace and The Cambridge Project, a technology evaluation program in partnership with Harvard, MIT, and Tufts.

Mike is a Brigadier General in the U.S. Air Force Reserve with more than 25 years of service and extensive experience in government operations. He created and leads the Department of War's first AI-driven national security talent operations platform and plays a critical role in the modernization of Air Force programs worth more than \$60 billion annually. In recognition of his contributions to government IT and national security innovation, Mike was honored with a 2025 Federal 100 Award and the 2025 GovCIO Flywheel Award for Innovation in Emerging Technology.

In private practice, Mike co-founded the cybersecurity practice at Wiggin and Dana LLP and previously handled complex dispute resolution at Clifford Chance. Earlier in his career, he served as a law clerk to the Honorable Margaret A. Ryan at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, the nation's highest military court.

Mike is practicing virtually in Massachusetts. He is licensed in Washington, D.C. Mike is not admitted in Massachusetts and therefore not authorized to practice law in Massachusetts.

CREDENTIALS

Education

- J.D., Georgetown University Law Center, 2009
Co-Managing Editor, The Georgetown Law Journal; Dean's List; Recipient, Academy of Trial Lawyers 2009 Federal Legislation Clinic Award
- M.P.A., Auburn University, 2003
- B.S., Business Administration, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1998
With Distinction and Highest Honors

Associations and Memberships

- Chairman of the Board, Lexington-Concord Chapter of AFCEA

Honors

- Honored with 2025 Federal 100 Award
- Recognized with 2025 GovCIO Flywheel Award for Innovation in Emerging Technology
- Received AFCEA International's 2024 Distinguished Award for Excellence in Emerging Technology
- Named a 2014-2016 *New England Super Lawyers* "Rising Star"

Admissions

- Bar of the District of Columbia
- State Bar of Massachusetts

INSIGHTS

Select Publications

- "Without Talent Agility, America May Lose," *War on the Rocks*, 2024
- "Practice Tips for Mitigating Data-Breach Risk & Liability," *Criminal Litigation*, American Bar Association, Spring 2014

Select Speaking Engagements

- Keynote Speaker, "Unlocking American Talent with GigEagle," AITalks Presented by AIScoop, April 24, 2025
- Panelist, "Digital and AI," Harvard Business School & The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Sloan National Security Conference, 2025
- Keynote Speaker, Special Competitive Studies Project ai + expo, 2025
- TED Talk Speaker, TEDx Conference, 2024
- Moderator, "The Great Reshuffle: Talent Wars and a Gig," SXSW, 2024
- Guest Speaker, "Creating Agile Talent Ecosystems for DoD," Defense Mavericks Podcast, 2024
- Panelist, "AI and Talent," Advantage DoD, Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Office (CDAO), 2024
- Chair and Host, AFCEA New Horizons Defense Symposium, March 27-29, 2023
- Panelist, "Defense Innovation," AFCEA NOVA, December 8, 2022
- Keynote Speaker, "Defense Innovation," SENEDIA Conference, 2019
- Speaker, ISR and C2 Battle Management Conference, 2019
- Speaker, "Defense Software Acquisition and Development," Defense Innovation Board Federal Advisory Committee, 2018