

NEWS

Bloomfield addresses GC Privilege Obstacle

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Charlotte Litigation Member Neil Bloomfield was quoted in *Law360*'s article "Schlumberger IP Fight Highlights GC Privilege Obstacle," which published on August 5. The article examines mistakes and dangers that threaten attorney-client privilege between general counsel and their corporate employer/client. The topic stems from a Texas judge's ruling in a trade secrets suit brought by Schlumberger Ltd., that an executive of Acacia Research Group cannot assert attorney-client privilege to shield conversations she had with the company merely because she is a lawyer.

"People who are not lawyers assume that every communication with an attorney is privileged because they don't understand how the privilege works," Bloomfield told *Law360*. "This issue arises more than people think... There is a general assumption that putting an attorney on a document or including them in discussions automatically cloaks a communication in privilege no matter what is discussed."