



## SEC Initiative to Focus on Cybersecurity

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On April 15, 2014, the Office of Compliance Inspections and Examinations (“OCIE”) of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) issued a risk alert providing information concerning its initiative to assess cybersecurity preparedness in the securities industry (the “Cybersecurity Initiative”). As part of the Cybersecurity Initiative, OCIE will conduct examinations of more than 50 registered broker-dealers and registered investment advisers, focusing on areas related to cybersecurity. The Cybersecurity Initiative is designed to assess cybersecurity preparedness in the securities industry, to obtain information about recent experiences with certain types of cyber threats, and to identify areas in which the SEC and the industries it regulates can work together to protect investors and the capital markets from cybersecurity threats.

Although OCIE will examine only a small percentage of the broker-dealers and investment advisers registered with the SEC as part of the Cybersecurity Initiative, it has publicly released a sample of the request for information and documents that it intends to use in connection with the initiative.<sup>[1]</sup> The sample request for information and documents can be, and is intended by OCIE to be, used by compliance professionals to assess their firms’ level of preparedness, regardless of whether their firms are included in OCIE’s examinations.

If you have questions concerning OCIE’s Cybersecurity Initiative or other compliance or examination matters, or would like more detailed information, please do not hesitate to contact any of the attorneys referenced below.

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[1] The sample request for information and documents that OCIE intends to use in connection with the Cybersecurity Initiative appears as the appendix to OCIE's National Exam Program Risk Alert regarding its Cybersecurity Initiative, available at <http://www.sec.gov/ocie/announcement/Cybersecurity+Risk+Alert++%2526+Appendix+-+4.15.14.pdf>.