



Connell O'Neill

39, partner, APAC head of TMT, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher

As the head of Gibson Dunn & Crutcher's technology, media and telecommunications practice in Asia, Connell O'Neill advises clients throughout APAC and the Middle East on corporate and commercial transactions, privacy and cybersecurity, product counselling, and commercial intellectual property matters.

O'Neill has been a key advisor on several crucial matters across APAC and the Middle East, including in China, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, Australia, UAE and elsewhere. He has provided strategic and commercially sensitive advice to clients on a range of complex and emerging topics.

O'Neill has continued to advise his long-standing clients PLDT Inc., the Philippines telco and its subsidiary Smart Communications, Inc, since early 2016 on its digital transformation. He has assisted PLDT on an extension of its managed IT infrastructure arrangements for the consolidation, modernization and management of PLDT and Smart's IT Infrastructure.

O'Neill also recently advised Etisalat on its strategic data center joint venture with G42 in the UAE to create the largest data center platform in the region, and recently assisted Miescor International Development Corporation (a joint venture between Meralco and Stonepeak Infrastructure Partners) on its acquisition of a portfolio of telecommunications towers from Globe Telecommunications in the Philippines.

O'Neill regularly advises emerging and established businesses on major transformative transactions and digital strategies. His most prominent clients are PLDT Inc, Smart Communications Inc, Meralco, MIDC, Etisalat, e&, Nokia Corporation, Binance, PCCW Limited, Zoom, Twitter, Meta (Facebook) / Edge Network Services Limited, Amazon /Amazon Web Services, and Sequoia Capital India, among others.

"Connell is the advisor and partner you want on your side of the table if you are a General Counsel for a business. His sharp commercial acumen, logical and clear thinking, sound legal analysis and ability to articulate complex issues into simple language will always put you on the front foot," a client says.