

ECONOMIC ESPIONAGE ACT (EEA) OF 1996

The Economic Espionage Act (EEA) is designed to protect intellectual property and trade secrets, which are vital to the economic health and security of the USA. Perpetrators of economic espionage are investigated and prosecuted by the US Justice Department, at the request of perceived victimized private entities, if those private entities can show that they have implemented reasonable measures to safeguard their information from economic espionage. Such reasonable measures include securely managing and safeguarding media with intellectual property and trade secrets information prior to disposal, including shredding documents. The EEA underscores the importance for companies to have written policies and practices for safeguarding their information from getting into the wrong hands.