Overview
Steptoe partners Brian Egan and Meredith Rathbone were quoted in the introductory article of a World ECR special report titled “The China Question.”

The report takes a look at China’s goal to be the world leader in technology by 2025, the US government’s response and the impact on business. So far, the US government has issued a raft of regulations, sanctions and export controls designed to slow the PRC’s progress.

Egan says that while many global giants and other large companies have the in-house expertise to understand how they are impacted by the wave of new regulations, others often do not. "You have some smaller tech start-up companies that might be in what I call 'the clueless phase,' or the 'ignorance is bliss phase,' where they have some sense that they may face some obstacles, but they don’t necessarily realize how a partnership with a Chinese company could lead to regulatory complications. Then you have some tech companies that see dark clouds on the horizon and want to do something but they’re not sure what to do."

Rathbone advises that in this uncertain terrain companies should be engaging in "a compliance-mapping exercise, so that if new restrictions come into place companies are ahead of the game in identifying pressure points." She says this would give companies "an opportunity to quickly assess whether or not they can proceed with business as usual."

The full article can be read here.

Practices
Economic Sanctions
Export Controls