



Sean O'Brien

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Short Bio

Sean O'Brien is an Associate Research Scholar at **Yale Law School** and Director of the Cybersecurity and Computer Science Programs, as well as Assistant Professor, at **Bay Path University**. He is founder of **Yale Privacy Lab** and Deputy Director of the **Free Software Foundation**. Sean has more than two decades of experience in the private and public sectors in areas such as infrastructure management, Free and Open Source Software (FOSS), and blockchain security. At **Ivy Cyber**, "Prof Diggity" develops the curriculum of remote classes and guides the **PrivacySafe** secure hardware and software products. Sean's expertise has appeared in **The New York Times**, **Wired**, **AP**, **NBC**, **Popular Science**, **Forbes**, **The Financial Times**, and more.

Education

01/2013 – Present
New Haven, CT USA

Associate Research Scholar in Law Yale Law School

Research Fellow of the Information Society Project since 2013. Founded Privacy Lab initiative in 2017. Mobile forensic analysis with press in 100+ global outlets.

01/2023 – 05/2025
Stanford, CA USA

AI, Blockchain, Cybersecurity | Executive Education Stanford University

Professional Certificate: Machine Learning

Professional Certificate: Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Healthcare

Professional Certificate: Advanced Cybersecurity & Blockchain Technologies

01/2016 – 12/2022
Cambridge, MA USA

AI, Cybersecurity | Executive Education Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Professional Certificate: Artificial Intelligence (AI) Leadership

Professional Certificate: Cybersecurity Technology, Application and Policy

01/2021 – 12/2021
Cambridge, MA USA

Data Privacy | Executive Education Harvard University

Professional Certificate: Data Privacy and Technology

06/2007 – 08/2008
Storrs, CT USA

Educational Technology | Master of Arts in Education (MA Ed) University of Connecticut

Focus: Command Line Literacy

08/2001 – 05/2005
Storrs, CT USA

Interactive Digital Media | Bachelor of Arts (BA) University of Connecticut

Concentration: Creative Writing

Select Certifications

01/2025

Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) ISC2 Member # 970696

<https://www.credly.com/badges/b3c5382a-d6ff-437d-811e-dfc906aafad4>

10/2022

Certified in Cybersecurity (CC) ISC2

<https://www.credly.com/badges/e0f9c156-4884-456b-9bd1-27ae5fda2d8f>

Select Certifications

04/2023	Cybersecurity Exam Expert ISC2 https://www.credly.com/badges/088eb172-3b09-4e6e-8804-4dd6e9d1b2a8
04/2024	Mensa High IQ Society Lifetime Member American Mensa https://www.credly.com/badges/e35f1fc9-0a1a-42f4-b2d6-ca41fa0a18a7
07/2022	Certified Blockchain Security Professional (CBSP) Blockchain Council https://www.credential.net/1ladc107-4732-4b60-a7e1-7875e2107f41
01/2022	Linux Foundation Certified IT Associate (LFCA) Linux Foundation https://www.credly.com/badges/56b8fe21-5fbf-4f7e-a631-da87e07c5209
12/2021	Certified White Hat Hacker (WHH) Global Tech Council https://www.credential.net/785a3996-4edd-4fd9-9fab-4859afb3a051
10/2021	Data Protection Specialist / Data Privacy Officer (DPO) Association for Data and Cyber Governance

Work Experience

07/2025 – Present Longmeadow, MA USA	Director, Cybersecurity and Computer Science Programs & Assistant Professor, Bay Path University <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ranked #5 Cybersecurity program in USA (<i>Forbes</i> 2024)Lead NSA CAE-CD program aligned with NICE and NIST standards
01/2026 – Present Boston, MA USA	Deputy Director Free Software Foundation <ul style="list-style-type: none">Senior leadership in globally-respected nonprofit for software freedom advocacy.Operational oversight, advancing institutional mission, and long-term strategy.
04/2023 – Present New Haven, CT USA	Founder & CEO Ivy Cyber <ul style="list-style-type: none">Driving delivery of the PrivacySafe secure hardware and software productsTeaching as "Prof Diggity" & consulting in Europe, Hong Kong, New York, Dubai.
06/2025 – Present New Orleans, LA, USA	Adjunct Faculty, School of Professional Advancement Tulane University <ul style="list-style-type: none">"AI Implementation in Workplace" CPST-4913-15.Delivering synchronous online instruction emphasizing practical AI strategies
01/2025 – Present Salamanca, Spain	Senior Expert, Cybersecurity GeoRisk Solutions <ul style="list-style-type: none">Spearheading projects at the firm in regard to cybersecurity and privacy.Cyber Defense & Response, Blockchain & Web3 Research, and AI Strategy & Risk.
08/2025 – 10/2025 New Haven, CT USA	Instructor, Digital Forensics, Yale Law School Yale University <ul style="list-style-type: none">Created curriculum for "Cyber Threats & Digital Forensics" LAW 50100-01.Encryption, static analysis, smartphones, open source intelligence (OSINT).
06/2025 – 10/2025 Sacramento, CA, USA	Instructor, Artificial Intelligence MTI College / Campus.edu <ul style="list-style-type: none">"AI for Business" COLL 121 and "Business Law" BUSN 215Lead live online sessions with 100+ students on prompt engineering and AI.

06/2019 – 06/2025
New Haven, CT USA

**Founder
PrivacySafe**

- Secure software for chat, video, and storage in healthcare, legal, and SMB/SME.
- Launched 6 B2C products & 6 B2B products in 2024-2025 that are Free Software.

01/2025 – 06/2025
New Haven, CT USA

**Instructor, Artificial Intelligence, Yale Law School
Yale University**

- Created curriculum for “Artificial Intelligence: Creativity & IP” LAW 50100-25.
- Focus on GenAI such as ChatGPT, Claude, Midjourney, DeepSeek, Github Copilot.

04/2025 – 06/2025
Longfellow, MA USA

**Adjunct Faculty, Cybersecurity
Bay Path University**

- “Emerging Cybersecurity Threats” CBY 630.
- “Cyber Governance: Privacy, Ethics, & Digital Rights” CBY 202.

08/2018 – 06/2024
New Haven, CT USA

**Lecturer, Cybersecurity, Yale Law School
Yale University**

- Developed class with Prof. Scott J. Shapiro for Cybersecurity, LAW 20310 & 21314.
- Encryption, Kali Linux pentesting, Metasploit, hacking & cyber attack demos.
- Lecturer in Law 2018 – 2019, Visiting Lecturer in Law 2022 & 2023 – 2024.

07/2023 – 09/2024
Reykjavik, Iceland

**Chief Technology Officer (CTO)
Global Technology Firm**

- Launched privacy-respecting B2C service and led development of B2B products.
- Designed a blockchain social messaging service.

09/2021 – 07/2023
Reykjavik, Iceland

**Chief Security Officer (CSO)
Global Technology Firm**

- Security, privacy, and Free and Open-Source Software (FOSS) compliance.
- Managed internal systems and advised on Web3 components and consensus.

05/2022 – 07/2023
Nashville, TN USA

**Open Source Lead
Tari Labs & Yat Labs**

- Security leader for two global Web3 orgs. Managed VDP with 300+ bugs squashed.
- Managed git collaboration with open source developers and security researchers.

09/2022 – 05/2023
Washington, DC USA

**Instructor, Hacking & Cybersecurity
Lawfare Institute**

- Developed Lawfare Hacking & Cybersecurity class with Prof. Scott J. Shapiro.
- 120+ remote students. CLI, malware, DDoS, The Dark Web, and cybercrime.

09/2020 – 09/2021
British Virgin Islands, UK

**Principal Researcher, Digital Security Lab
ExpressVPN**

- Founder of a research center focusing on privacy and cybersecurity.
- Investigations of privacy harms and open source reports about security issues.

12/2019 – 01/2021
New Haven, CT USA

**Faculty Mentor
Prepared AI**

- Mentor for Michael Chime, Neal Soni, Dylan Gleicher at Yale Tsai CITY incubator
- Company raised \$130m+ in Series A, B, C led by Andreessen Horowitz.

12/2019 – 05/2020
Gibraltar, UK

**Managing Editor, The Privacy Issue
IVPN**

- Founding editor of The "Privacy Issue" a privacy industry vertical for IVPN.
- Writing, editing, and curating long-form articles and guides on cybersecurity.

08/2022 – 12/2022
New Haven, CT USA

**Instructor, Blockchain, Yale Law School
Yale University**

- Created curriculum for “What is Web3? Blockchain & NFTs” LAW 50100-13.
- Introduces Yale Law School students to emerging Web3 technology.

Work Experience

06/2020 – 08/2022
Oxford, England, UK

Head Tutor, Cyber Security for Business Leaders Saïd Business School, University of Oxford

- Founding Head Tutor 2020, Tutor 2021, Head Tutor 2022.
- Leading team of tutors in a remote, global class with 86 NPS & 100% completion.

08/2017 – 12/2017
New Haven, CT USA

Instructor, Yale Law School Yale University

- Created curriculum for “Cyber Freedom & Security” LAW 50112.
- Discussed the Internet within the context of surveillance and targeted attacks.

01/2017 – 06/2017
New Haven, CT USA

Instructor, Yale Law School Yale University

- Created curriculum for “Citizen FOSS: What Snowden Knew” LAW 50110.
- Introduced security within the context of the 2013 Edward Snowden disclosures.

10/2018 – 05/2019
San Francisco, CA USA

Director of Business Development Purism

- Fostering partnerships in open hardware and open source software industries.
- Sales and marketing strategy for enterprise B2B and consumer B2C hardware.

01/2013 – 10/2018
New Haven, CT USA

Director of Technology, International Students & Scholars Yale University

- Drupal development and design of custom Web applications.
- Implemented decentralized and P2P protocols like Jabber/XMPP, Jitsi/WebRTC.

08/2001 – 01/2013
Storrs CT, USA

Website Manager, Student Financial Aid Services University of Connecticut

- Development and admin of servers & apps on Red Hat, Debian, Apache, nginx.
- Python, PHP, JavaScript, jQuery, MySQL, PostgreSQL, and Oracle/PeopleSoft.

06/2003 – 07/2003
Storrs, CT USA

Orientation Leader, Student Orientation Services University of Connecticut

- Provided guidance, and support for hundreds of incoming students at UConn.
- Trained in transition strategies for students that result in increased retention.

Additional Training

AI / LLM Model Training and Evaluation

Internet of Things (IoT) Hardware

Firmware Programming, BIOS & Bootloader

Digital Forensics & Code Audits

Penetration Testing & Ethical Hacking

International Privacy Regulation & Policy

Homebrewing Beer & Wine

Hospitality, Bartending, Serving (Cicerone CBS)

References

Scott J. Shapiro | <https://law.yale.edu/scott-j-shapiro>

Charles F. Southmayd Professor of Law and Professor of Philosophy at Yale Law School

Author of Fancy Bear Goes Phishing: The Dark History of the Information Age

John Kiriakou | <https://whistleblower.org/bio-john-kiriakou>

Professor of Contemporary Intelligence Studies, University of Salamanca

Former CIA Analyst, Case Officer, and Counterterrorism Consultant

References

Laurin Weissinger | <https://www.laurinw.com>

Lecturer, Fletcher School at Tufts University, Cybersecurity Fellow and Visiting Fellow,
Information Society Project at Yale Law School, CISSP, CCSP, CISM, CISA, CIPT, CIPM, CIPP/E, CIPP/US

Cory Doctorow | <https://pluralistic.net>

Author of Little Brother, Homeland, Walkaway. Special Advisor to the Electronic Frontier Foundation,
former European Director of the Electronic Frontier Foundation, co-founder of UK Open Rights Group

Ben Wizner | <https://www.aclu.org/bio/ben-wizner>

Director of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Speech, Privacy, and Technology Project

Nikolas Guggenberger | <https://law.yale.edu/nikolas-guggenberger-0>

Assistant Professor of Law at the University of Houston Law Center, former Executive Director,
Information Society Project at Yale Law School

Lucia M. Sommerer | <https://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/534866.html>

Researcher and Teaching Fellow at the University of Göttingen, Affiliated Fellow, Information
Society Project at Yale Law School

Joshua Gay | <https://opensource.ieee.org/jgay>

Senior Manager, SA Open Source Community and Infrastructure at IEEE, former Licensing and
Compliance Manager at the Free Software Foundation