



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/11adc107-4732-4b60-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 (Forbes 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
Reykjavík, 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
Reykjavík, 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