

# Sean O'Brien

Location: New Haven, CT USA

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Website: https://profdiggity.com PGP Key: 0x2C83959AD748331E

#### **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 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 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, 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

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04/2023 Cybersecurity Exam Expert IŠC2 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 Certified White Hat Hacker (WHH) 12/2021 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

- Ranked #5 Cybersecurity program in USA (**Forbes** 2024)
- Lead NSA CAE-CD program aligned with NICE and NIST standards

04/2023 – Present New Haven, CT USA

### Founder & CEO Ivy Cyber

- Driving delivery of the PrivacySafe secure hardware and software products
- Teaching 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

- "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

- 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

- 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

- "AI for Business" COLL 121 and "Business Law" BUSN 215
- Lead 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.
- Privacy By Design project launched 6 B2C products & 6 B2B products in 2024-2025.

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.

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.

#### **Work Experience**

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, 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

**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

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

#### References

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