Hacker Law School

"We went to law school so you don't have to"

2013 Summer Quarter
DEFCON
Faculty Bio

Marcia Hofmann

- Currently solo digital rights attorney
- 7 Years at the EFF
- 3 Years at EPIC
- Adjunct faculty at the University of California Hastings College of Law in San Francisco
- Licensed to practice law in CA, DC
Faculty Bio

Jim Rennie

- 3 years doing Internet privacy compliance & policy work in San Francisco
- 3 years as a Public Defender in Las Vegas
- Prior to law school, 3 years as a web developer
- Attended way too many hacker cons over the last 14 years
- Licensed to practice law in CA, NV
Disclaimers

I am not YOUR attorney
• Nothing you say to me is covered by attorney-client privilege
• I don't know enough about your particular situation to advise you personally

This is not "legal advice"
• This is a very general overview and may not apply to you or your specific situation
• Don't get your legal advice from someone at a con (even if we're correct about the law)
What is Hacker Law School?

The basic legal education you need (and should’ve been taught in high school), customized for the hacker community.
What You're Going to Learn

The basics of:

  Intellectual Property
  Criminal/Civil Substantive Law
  Criminal Procedure

How the law applies to real life situations
Why learn about these laws?

If you're doing online security research, you need to be able to understand the risks.
What do you mean by "risk"?

A couple distinct, separate things.

(1) The likelihood of becoming an attractive target for a lawsuit or prosecution, either with or without basis.

(2) The likelihood that a court might decide that you’ve run afoul of the law.
What You're NOT Going to Learn

Anything other than the basics for risk-spotting

To be afraid
Feedback

Hacker Law School is always changing, updating, and making itself better

Please let us know if you have questions or suggestions for improvement

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