

# Hacker Law School

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

2013 Summer Quarter

D E F C O N

# 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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