

Chris Hoofnagle

Mon, May 20, 1:14 PM (11 days ago)

to Tracy, jdempsey, dsolove

Dear Ms. Rosenberg,

Thank you for your thoughtful letter concerning the Privacy Law Scholars Conference (PLSC). I write to offer you and colleagues the opportunity to participate in PLSC free of charge. I think you will see firsthand that PLSC provides a structured opportunity for people who may disagree to contemplate difficult problems civilly and constructively. In fact, PLSC, despite being funded by Palantir, Microsoft, Google, and Oracle over the years, has provided many authors the opportunity to present scholarship highly critical of these very companies. Many scholars critiquing the practices of companies building surveillance technology find it valuable - and find that it helps them sharpen their arguments - to talk to representatives of those companies.

We have also created a community where people from companies who believe in privacy by design participate and bring knowledge back to their firms. In the case of Palantir, it is not well known that one of the [most important books on privacy](#) by design engineering was written by their employees.

PLSC is not an advocacy conference, although I think it is fair to say that most of the participants believe deeply that privacy is an important, liberal enlightenment value. We host many other events that are more directly related to practice and advocacy; this year, BCLT gave privacy awards to longtime privacy advocates Joanne McNabb and Nuala O'Connor. We also hosted CCPA events, including Alastair MacTaggart and others who have pushed the privacy envelope here. ACLU privacy lawyer Nicole Ozer is currently a fellow with us.

I will forward your letter to our program committee, and if you'd like, I am happy to ask John Grant of Palantir to meet with you. Please do tell me if you and your colleagues would like to participate in the conference.

Regards, Chris Hoofnagle