



Silicon Flatirons

KNOW WHAT'S NEXT.

2019 - 2020

Conference & Event Lineup

@ Colorado Law, unless noted

SEPT 06, 2019

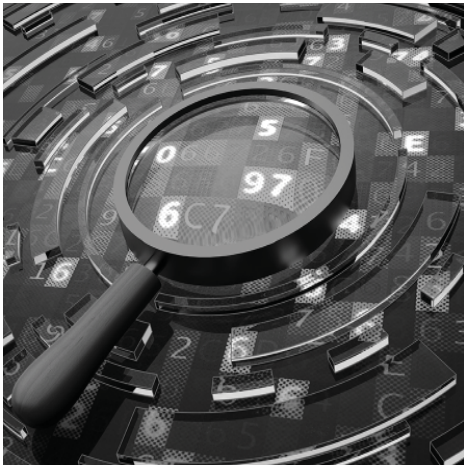
The Near Future of
U.S. Privacy Law

OCT 10, 2019

Saving Our Spectrum:
Handling Radio Layer
Vulnerabilities in
Wireless Systems

OCT 24, 2019

Entrepreneurship in
Rural America



FEB 09 & 10, 2020

Technology Optimism
and Pessimism

MAR 05, 2020

Lay Listeners, Sheet
Music, & Chord
Progressions: The
Future of Copyright
Infringement Analysis

APR 24, 2020

Artificial Intelligence,
the Future of
Employment, and the
Law



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Dear Friends and Supporters,

A warm hello to the Silicon Flatirons Community. I'm so excited to have this opportunity to address you early in my tenure as the new Executive Director of Silicon Flatirons. Coming on board in the lead-up to our 20th Anniversary Celebration has taught me nothing if not the depth of the Silicon Flatirons legacy and the strength of our relationships with our community.

Starting in January we will kick off anniversary festivities and look back on the many wonderful accomplishments of Silicon Flatirons, from Vint Cerf calling us the "Davos of telecom" to being the birthplace of the term "internet neutrality," long before it took over media headlines. At Silicon Flatirons we are proud of our story and the impacts we've driven, and we can't wait to show them off. As I look back at these accomplishments, I personally want to say a huge "thanks" to Phil Weiser, Dale Hatfield, and the entire Silicon Flatirons Community. I appreciate your faith in me and will work hard to maintain the legacy entrusted to me.

Looking forward, Silicon Flatirons will continue to act as a center for conversations and debates across the tech policy sphere, bringing in actors from all sectors, backgrounds, and viewpoints. Our 2019-2020 conference series will launch with an in-depth look at "The Near Future of U.S. Privacy Law," led by Margot Kaminski, our Privacy Initiative Director. Later this fall, our Spectrum Initiative Directors, Dale Hatfield and Pierre de Vries, will bring folks together to examine the critical issues related to "Saving Our Spectrum: Handling Radio Layer Vulnerabilities in Wireless Systems." Conferences on rural entrepreneurship, AI, IP and the music industry, and healthcare will all follow. I hope you will mark your calendars for these events and others in the full calendar, which we provide below.

I also want to highlight the many ways we continue to engage with students, who remain the heart of Silicon Flatirons. This past summer we sent 12 students to Washington, D.C., through our DC Summer and Hatfield Scholars programs, and placed 30 students in other positions around Colorado and the United States. We are always looking for new and interesting places for our students to get real-world experience, so if you're interested in hosting an intern or fellow, or would want to act as a mentor, please do reach out. This year we will continue our commitment to student success with the Silicon Flatirons Writing Competition and Ethics Competition, as well as through our Startup Summer partnership.

Additionally, we are welcoming long-time faculty member Harry Surden into Silicon Flatirons as a new Initiative Director on Artificial Intelligence. We are formalizing the process to pursue new and exciting initiatives in a way that keeps Silicon Flatirons at the forefront of tech policy while ensuring that we grow in a positive and sustainable manner. We'll also be making progress to formalize other advisory and consulting bodies. I look forward to working with you all throughout that process.



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Across all of these programs, I am delighted to highlight that we also are placing new focus on diversity and inclusion. It is my personal belief that conversations and debates are both more interesting and productive when they include a wide range of impacted voices. To that end we will be investing in programs and policies that ensure Silicon Flatirons remains a place that welcomes all perspectives, and we will invite and promote people of all backgrounds, particularly those from traditionally marginalized communities. To accomplish this, we have a responsibility to make Silicon Flatirons a safe space, not in terms of avoiding challenging topics and ideas, but rather a place that promotes respectful engagement even in times of vociferous policy disagreements. As we dig down into this important work, please reach out to me if you would like to discuss the path forward and share your opinions.

As a supporter, you can be a part of all of this and help us continue to ask, "what's next?" I look forward to connecting with all of you, and I hope that you will always feel free to reach out with your thoughts, suggestions, and concerns (as well as any compliments that you feel we've earned!) throughout the year. The Silicon Flatirons mission is more important than ever, and we want you to be a part of our work implementing it.

Cheers,

Amie Stepanovich
Executive Director



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Conference Season Kickoff!

The Near Future of U.S. Privacy Law

September 6, 2019

University of Colorado Law School

The year 2019 may be a turning point for data privacy law. Privacy law in the United States is famously a hole-ridden patchwork of state laws, sectoral legislation, and consumer protection. Whether in response to the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation or to California's enactment of its Consumer Privacy Act, over this past year state and federal legislators have been proposing new data privacy laws at an energetic rate.

How will we govern the technology of the near future? Will the United States join the rest of the world in recognizing data privacy rights or will it take its own approach? Will these choices even matter in practice, given the long reach of both EU and California law?

This conference will bring together academics, practitioners, technologists, and regulators to discuss the near future of U.S. data privacy law. Specifically, we will explore municipal bans on surveillance technology, new state privacy laws, the future role of the Federal Trade Commission, and proposed federal legislation.

Saving Our Spectrum:

Handling Radio Layer Vulnerabilities in Wireless Systems

October 10, 2019

University of Colorado Law School

We rely on spectrum more than ever before, for public safety, mobile services, navigation, entertainment, and more. Spectrum is now part of critical infrastructure, and analysts project 50 billion connected devices by 2025, with 90% of them connected wirelessly. However, policymakers have only just begun to think through what it means to secure wireless access. The problem is new enough – and serious enough – to warrant the spectrum policy community gathering to map out the situation.

This half-day conference will convene a diverse group of policymakers, industry players, and academics to discuss the intersection of cybersecurity and radio operation. We will explore the risks of increasing reliance on wireless systems and access to spectrum, and discuss ways to solve such problems. We will focus on the radio link rather than conventional cybersecurity issues: the challenges created by radio receivers necessarily being open to incoming signals in order to function, unlike wired networks, which can be physically shielded.

The conference will feature keynotes by Julius Knapp, Chief of the Federal Communications Commission's Office of Engineering and Technology, and Dr. Lisa Porter, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, who oversees the Department of Defense's work on 5G security. There will be panel discussions on the health care industry, cellular communications, along with next steps and solutions in this area.

The conference will be preceded by an optional technology primer to make the topic accessible to non-experts.



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Entrepreneurship in Rural America

October 24, 2019

University of Colorado Law School

Emerging companies are job creation engines that draw creative class individuals to concentrated areas of innovation. Much discussion and study surround new companies launched within innovation hubs such as Silicon Valley, Boston, New York, Austin, Seattle, and Boulder/Denver. But what about rural areas and small towns? What does entrepreneurship look like outside of thriving startup scenes?

Join Silicon Flatirons for our annual entrepreneurship conference where we will examine efforts to support entrepreneurs and launch new companies in rural America. Discussions will be led by Delaney Keating, Managing Director of Startup Colorado, as well as Brad Bernthal, Director of Silicon Flatirons' Entrepreneurship Initiative.

Technology Optimism and Technology Pessimism

February 9-10, 2020

University of Colorado Law School

In the past decades, technological advances across fields such as artificial intelligence, telecommunications, social media, health care, data analysis, and media have brought dramatic transformations for society. Many of these advances have been positive: increasing transparency, improving health outcomes, spreading knowledge and information, and increasing connectivity. At the same time, many technological transformations have introduced novel and worrisome societal problems, ranging from social isolation, socioeconomic inequality, accessibility, the vulnerability of voting systems, political polarization, environmental impacts, and decreased privacy. Some observers of these changes call for celebration, while others sound the alarm of concern. Both perspectives need to be taken seriously, but neither tells the full story.

This conference will explore the positive impacts, technology optimism, along with negative impacts, technology pessimism, in an effort to reach a more nuanced appreciation of technological change and to consider how we advance the positive impact while mitigating the negative.



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Lay Listeners, Sheet Music, & Chord Progressions: The Future of Copyright Infringement Analysis in Music

March 5, 2020

University of Colorado Law School

In August 2019, a jury awarded a little-known songwriter \$2.8 million in damages for copyright infringement. The alleged infringement involves four notes from Katy Perry's hit song "Dark Horse." The verdict can be viewed as a victory for the little guy—a Christian rapper who, pre-internet, would have struggled to show access, a required component of illegal copying. It can alternately be viewed as a dangerous precedent, opening the door for copyright trolls and deterring creation.

In 2017, Silicon Flatirons hosted a conference focused on the recently decided *Blurred Lines* case, in which Marvin Gaye's estate secured a multi-million-dollar copyright infringement judgment against songwriters and recording artists, Pharrell Williams and Robin Thicke. Since that time, dozens of similar lawsuits have accused artists—ranging from Ed Sheeran to Led Zeppelin to Lady Gaga—of unauthorized copying of others' songs. Some of these cases have settled with few publicly-available details. Others have gone to trial with juries ultimately awarding millions of dollars in damages.

Join us for our sixth annual content conference where we will welcome back some familiar faces, and new experts, to ask: Is this a good development? Are juries getting these "substantial similarity" cases right? If so, how do we know? If not, what are some alternative ways to handle these types of cases?

Artificial Intelligence, the Future of Employment, and the Law

April 24, 2020

University of Colorado Law School

What is the future of artificial intelligence (AI) on employment and the labor force? Some argue that AI will eliminate jobs in fields as diverse as transportation, medicine, and law, and perhaps create widespread unemployment. Others downplay the impact of AI noting its limitations, or suggest that AI will create new types of jobs that are today difficult to imagine and will bring widespread societal benefits.

Related debates query whether AI is a uniquely transformative technology whose ability to impact knowledge-workers makes it distinct, or whether AI will simply follow patterns similar to past impactful technologies that were absorbed by the economy, including electricity, industrial and agricultural mechanization, computers, telecommunications, and the internet. A common theme is whether AI is likely to exacerbate or reduce societal inequality.

This conference aims to take a rigorous, evidence-based examination of the likely impact of AI on jobs broadly and also on the legal profession specifically, informed by panelists from economics, law, computer science, and industry.



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Entrepreneurship Initiative Series

@ Colorado Law, unless noted

ENTREPRENEURS UNPLUGGED

Star entrepreneurs share candid stories and insights in an engaging and informal setting. The unplugged series serves as a meeting place for campus and community members to gather and learn about entrepreneurship.

OCT 24, 2019

Conference:
Entrepreneurship in Rural America

1:00 - 6:15 PM

CRASH COURSES

This series examines legal and business topics that entrepreneurs confront when launching new ventures. Attendees gain a working knowledge of specific topics that pertain to navigating the startup world.

SEPT 11, 2019

Entrepreneurs Unplugged:
Yoav Lurie and Justin Segall,
Uplight

5:30 - 7:00 PM

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&
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OCT 15, 2019

Crash Course: Entrepreneurial Nonprofits

5:30 - 7:30 PM

NOV 14, 2019

Entrepreneurs Unplugged:
Scott Drake, ViewRay, Inc.

5:30 - 7:00 PM





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Student and Community-Reaching Programs

The Governmental Entrepreneurial Leadership Accelerator (GELA) helps governments of any size to approach problem solving in new and innovative ways. The program teaches rising stars within government, along with Colorado Law students, how to develop and use entrepreneurial thinking to address real public policy issues. The City and County of Denver, City of Boulder, State of Colorado, and Office of the Colorado Attorney General have been our partners.

The **Hatfield Scholars Program** provides grants for those in government or public interest positions, thereby encouraging interest in public service. The **DC Summer Program** places students in technology-focused private and public organizations and government agencies in Washington, D.C. for internships. The programs run in parallel, with students completing a three-week course on spectrum management prior to going to Washington, D.C.

Startup Summer helps student interns maximize their summer experience. The 10-week program brings together interns from Colorado Front Range startups and emerging companies and guides them through the startup ideation and creation process, supporting them as they build their own venture and compete in an end-of-summer pitch contest with cash prizes.

Community Impact and Partners



bencolorado.org

colorado.edu/nvc

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