

SEAN MARTIN MCDONALD

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DIGITAL PUBLIC

Co-Founder, June 2015- Present

- Build public interest digital governance systems, capacity, and research
- Helped identify, define, and apply data trusts as a legal approach to creating fiduciary data governance
- Provided expert testimony on behalf of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association reviewing Sidewalk Labs' proposed use of a data trust in the Quayside Project in Toronto
- Work with Mozilla, Meedan, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, UNICEF, the Government of Canada, Luminare, the Council of Canadian Innovators, the City of Guelph-Wellington, and others
- Published and cited work on public and last-mile applications of data governance in the COVID-19 response in the Economist, Wired, Nature, Foreign Policy, the Walrus, OneZero, among others.
- Cited in the Canadian National Digital Strategy as defining data trusts

FRONTLINE SMS

Chief Executive Officer, (SIMLab) June 2012 – November 2014, (Occam Technologies) November 2014 - Present

- Build, host, and support one of the world's most popular social impact technologies – with tens of thousands of users in 199 countries, reaching tens of millions of people
- Named the #1 Technology NGO in the world by the Global Journal in 2014; Nominet Trust 100 2014; Google Impact Award 2013; Knight News Challenge 2011
- Designed Social Impact Lab, a non-profit/for-profit hybrid to build and support open source technology
- Bootstrapped Occam Technologies into a self-sustaining social enterprise, building a range of open source and cloud-hosted technology products
- Successfully managed the spin-off of Medic Mobile and Occam Technologies
- Built a client portfolio that includes the Center for Disease Control, Legal Services Corporation, KIPP, Millennium Challenge Corporation, BBC, Johns Hopkins University, the ICRC, the Polaris Project, UNHCR, US Institute of Peace, and Search for Common Ground
- Raised over \$7,000,000 in consulting, product, and grant income
- Built a successful consulting and product practice, with verticals in legal services, campaigning, education, mobile payments, healthcare, humanitarian response, agriculture, media, and research
- Oversee the development and design of the Frontline product suite, including four additional platforms, FrontlineCloud (web-hosted), Frontline Builder (TBR), Payments, and FrontlineSync (Android)
- Oversee all aspects of strategic growth, operations, and business development
- Participate actively in the design, development, and extension of the FrontlineSMS platform
- Represent the organization with customers, media, panels, writing, speeches, and consultations

Director of Operations, January 2011- June 2012

- Design and develop technology products that improve the usefulness of the core platform
- Manage sector-specific projects, including :Medic, :Credit, :Learn, :Legal, :Radio, :Media, and Governance
- Won the Knight Foundation News Challenge in 2011
- Fundraised \$1,300,000 in support of operations and new projects
- Created and managed all consulting, including training, program design and custom product development
- Manage all aspects of organizational, relationship, and business development
- Responsible for the strategic growth and direction of FrontlineSMS and related brands

FRONTLINE SMS: LEGAL

Founder, June 2010- November 2014

- Design and develop technology products that improve dispute resolution services in underserved areas
- Partner with FrontlineSMS and other Sister Organizations to develop complementary technologies
- Manage the design, development, and implementation of all projects
- Manage all aspects of organizational and business development

- Draft, edit, and publish content for social media, academic journals, and earned media

METROSTAR SYSTEMS, INC.

Director of New Media Business Development, January 2010- May 2010

- Built the Social Media Aggregation and Research Technology (SMART) Service (now Zoomph)
- Secured Department of State Pilot Funding within two months of SMART Service Launch
- Provided technology consultation, advocacy, and outreach strategies to meet client needs
- Designed social media outreach and advocacy strategies for clients
- Coordinated with Haiti and Chile Crisis Commons groups, providing pro bono social media resources
- Draft, edit, and publish content for social media, academic journals, and earned media
- Drafted and edited marketing, communications, and outreach materials
- Represented MetroStar Systems in earned media, at conferences, and with clients

INTERNATIONAL RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT, INC.

Program Assistant, January 2009- December 2009

- Managed and backstopped projects in Louisiana, Nepal, Colombia, Cuba, and Indonesia
- Contributed to business development, including in-country assessment of Armenian media development
- Designed technical solutions, drafted, and edited proposal responses to a range of donors, including USAID
- Drafted, edited, and reviewed memorandums of understanding, leases, contracts, and other legal documents
- Prepared and edited donor deliverables, such as quarterly reports, close-out reports, and collateral materials
- Organized two working groups, focusing on Community Organizing and New Media, respectively

THE CENTER FOR PEACEBUILDING INTERNATIONAL

Communications Director, December 2005- January 2009

- Conducted Post-Tsunami Relief Effort assessment in Sri Lanka
- Organized, marketed, and participated in International Symposium on Tsunami Relief Lessons Learned
- Reorganized and redeveloped website, edited funding proposals, press materials, and all collateral materials
- Provided strategic organizational development guidance, consulting with the Board of Directors and staff

PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW AND POLICY GROUP

Senior Research Associate, May 2007- May 2008, Research Associate May 2006- May 2007

- Provided legal assistance to policy-shapers in an active secessionist conflict
- Drafted and edited comparative legal memoranda addressing peace processes and post-conflict transitions
- Managed a team of Research Associates to provide legal assistance

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Intern, Office of Conflict Mitigation and Management, Spring-Summer 2007

- Analyzed and Drafted technical guidance on Scopes of Work for the IQC Grant Process
- Drafted technical guidance for health program implementation in conflict areas
- Restructured, Drafted, and Edited Communications and Messaging Strategies for DCHA (\$2B Bureau)
- Drafted budgetary memoranda, scope of work orders, and collateral materials
- Co-leader of an intra-agency group on Islam, facilitated office work, and represented office at briefings

SPECIAL COUNSEL- HOGAN & HARTSON, LLP; MCKENNA, LONG, & ALDRIDGE, LLP

Paralegal, January 2005- June 2005

- Conducted extensive reviews of confidential health records in class-action HMO litigation
- Conducted extensive reviews of confidential national security records from Yucca Mountain

THE OFFICE OF SENATOR BARBARA A. MIKULSKI, BARBARA MIKULSKI FOR U.S. SENATE

Press Assistant, January 2004- January 2005

- Wrote, researched, prepared, and pitched press releases, remarks, and collateral materials
- Maintained routine contacts with journalists, pitching stories and organizing public events
- Controlled, reformatted, updated, and enhanced the Senator's website by adding services

- Published a daily clips package for the Senator and the staff, online and in print
- Provided operational support for both campaign and Senate communications offices

NORTHWEST CURRENT NEWSPAPERS, AMERICAN JOURNALISM REVIEW, BALTIMORE MAGAZINE
Editorial Intern, Spring 2002- Summer 2003

- Wrote and edited sidebars and articles, assisted with page layout
- Contacted sources, including high profile journalists to confirm article content

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN, HONDURAS MEDICAL CLINIC

Facilitator, Spring 2001

- Provided assistance to doctors and patients in post-Hurricane Andrew relief effort

THE DAILY TIMES

General Assignment Reporter, Summer 2000

- Wrote articles for daily publication, researched stories and wrote the company newsletter

THE INSTITUTE FOR MULTI-TRACK DIPLOMACY

Intern, Summer 1997

- Assisted with public relations, fundraising, and interactions with international clients

EDUCATION

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY- *Juris Doctor- Spring 2008; M.A., Conflict Resolution- Summer 2009*

WASHINGTON COLLEGE OF LAW- In-Concentration GPA- 3.87

Chile and Argentina Comparative Law/Foreign Investment Law Program- GPA 3.7

SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL SERVICE- GPA- 3.95

Honors: *Pittman B. Potter Award for Excellence in International Law*

Extra-Curricular Activities: **President**, Society for Peace and Conflict Resolution; **Vice President**,
 Alternative Dispute Resolution Society, Communications Law Society; Peer Mentor

Substantial Research Project: *The New Newsocracy: The Solution to Armenia's Old Media Problems*

GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY, ELLIOT SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL SERVICE- *Spring 2005*

Master's Class: Theories and Implementation of Peaceful Conflict Resolution- GPA 4.0

PHILLIP MERRILL COLLEGE OF JOURNALISM, UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND- *Spring 2003*

B.A. in Magazine Journalism, Concentrations in Political Science and Spanish

Honors: Notation of Academic Excellence, College Park Scholars Program

BOARDS, ADVISORY BOARDS, AWARDS, & FELLOWSHIPS

UNICEF

Data Governance for Children Advisory Group

DATA FOR BLACK LIVES MATTER

Data Governance Advisor

HIVOS INTERNATIONAL

Creative and Digital Futures Fellow, December 2019 - Present

WASHINGTON BUSINESS JOURNAL 40 UNDER 40 2019]

DUKE CENTER ON LAW AND TECHNOLOGY

Research Fellow, August 2018 – Present

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL GOVERNANCE INNOVATION
Senior Fellow, October 2018 – Present

THE NEW YORK BAR ASSOCIATION
Member-at-Large, June 2012- Present

STANFORD UNIVERSITY DIGITAL CIVIL SOCIETY LAB
Visiting Fellow, January 2017 – April 2018

THE CENTER FOR INTERNET & SOCIETY (US)
Board of Directors, May 2016 – May 2018

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
Expert, Democracy and Governance Assessment, June 2012- Present

DIGITAL DEMOCRACY
Advisory Board Member-At-Large, October 2009- Present

INTERNATIONAL PEACE PARK EXPEDITIONS FOUNDATION
Vice President of the Board of Directors, October 2009- January 2018

- Drafted the bylaws, articles of incorporation, and mission statement
- Provide strategic and organizational development support

DO SOMETHING.ORG
International Advisory Board, July 2014 – 2016

ECPAT INTERNATIONAL
Technology Advisor, November 2013 - 2015

THE AWESOME FOUNDATION
Trustee, DC Chapter, August 2013 – June 2015

TECHCHANGE
Advisory Board, Member-At-Large, December 2010- December 2014

BERKMAN KLEIN CENTER FOR INTERNET & SOCIETY, HARVARD UNIVERSITY
Affiliate, September 2012- 2013

THE CLINTON GLOBAL INITIATIVE
Technology Track Advisor, January 2012- January 2013

- Advise members and staff on ways to use technology to increase social impact

THE SOCIAL IMPACT LAB FOUNDATION
Board of Directors, Member-at-Large, March 2011- November 2014

- Act with signature authority for US representation of the Foundation

THE SOCIAL IMPACT LAB COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY
Board of Directors, Member-at-Large, March 2011- November 2014

- Oversee the implementation of the mission, coordinate all relevant operations with the staff

THE ALLIANCE FOR PEACEBUILDING
Board of Directors, Member-at-Large, September 2009- April 2012

- Head of the Communications Committee

- Member of Advocacy and Member Services Committees
- Designed, developed, and oversee the creation of the Peacebuilder's Digest (ongoing industry publication)

PUBLICATIONS & PROJECTS

McDonald, Sean Martin, (2020) A Novel, European Act of Data Governance, *Center for International Governance Innovation (online)* [Available here](#)

McDonald, Sean Martin, (2020) COVID-19 Lessons: Building Disaster-Ready Technologies, *Center for International Governance Innovation (online)* [Available here](#)

McDonald, Sean Martin, (2020) Technology Theatre, *Center for International Governance Innovation (online)* [Available here](#)

McDonald, Sean Martin (2020) Institutional Reason/Limitation, *The Site Magazine, Provisions* no. 1 [Available here](#)

McDonald, S. and Wylie, Bianca (2020) Notification: Apps Won't Contain COVID-19, *Center for International Governance Innovation (online)* [Available here](#)

McDonald, Sean Martin, (2020) The Digital Response to the Outbreak of COVID-19, *Center for International Governance Innovation (online)* [Available here](#)

McDonald, Sean Martin, (2020) Coronavirus: A Digital Governance Emergency of International Concern, *Center for International Governance Innovation (online)* [Available here](#)

McDonald, Sean Martin, (2020) Coronavirus Crisis Pushes States to Quarantine Online Information, *Foreign Policy (online)* [Available here](#)

McDonald, Sean Martin, (2019) Civic Data Trusts, *Some Thoughts (online)* [Available here](#)

McDonald, Sean Martin, (2019) Data Governance or Your Money Back: A Case for Digital Warranties, *Center for International Governance Innovation (online)* [Available here](#)

McDonald, Sean Martin, (2019) Owning Intelligence, *Center for International Governance Innovation (online)* [Available here](#)

McDonald, Sean Martin, (2019) The Fiduciary Supply Chain, *Center for International Governance Innovation (online)* [Available here](#)

McDonald, Sean Martin, (2019) What Can Data Governance Learn from Humanitarians?, *Center for International Governance Innovation (online)* [Available here](#)

McDonald, Sean, From Space to Supply Chains: A Plan for Humanitarian Data Governance (August 12, 2019). Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3436179> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3436179>

McDonald, Sean Martin, (2019) What is Stalling Better Data Governance?, *Center for International Governance Innovation (online)* [Available here](#)

McDonald, Sean Martin, (2019) How Regulations Are Reshaping Digital Companies, *Center for International Governance Innovation (online)* [Available here](#)

McDonald, Sean Martin, (2019) Reclaiming Data Trusts, *Center for International Governance Innovation (online)* [Available here](#)

McDonald, S. and Wylie, Bianca (2019) Envisioning a Circular Food Economy: Building Confidence in Smart City Policy, *The City of Guelph-Wellington* [Available here](#)

McDonald, Sean Martin (2018) The War-Torn Web, *Foreign Policy (online)* [Available here](#)

McDonald, S. and Wylie, Bianca (2019) Governing a Digital Circular Economy *The City of Guelph-Wellington* [Available here](#)

McDonald, S. And Wylie, Bianca (2018) What is a Data Trust? *Center for International Governance Innovation (online)* [Available here](#)

McDonald, Sean Martin (2018) The Secret Power of Political Data Trusts, *Overture Global* [Available here](#)

McDonald, Sean Martin (2018) Net Neutrality's End Will Let Power Eat the Internet, *Foreign Policy (online)* [Available here](#)

McDonald, Sean Martin (2018) Artificial Humanitarian Intelligence, *Overture Global* [Available here](#)

McDonald, S., Sandvik K., & Jacobsen, K., (2017) From Principle to Practice: Humanitarian Innovation and Experimentation, *Stanford Social Innovation Review (online)*. [Available here](#)

Jacobsen, K., Sandvik, K., & McDonald, S. (2017) Humanitarian Experimentation. *Humanitarian Law & Policy (online)*. [Available here](#)

Sandvik, K., Jacobsen, K., & McDonald, S. (2017). Do no harm: A taxonomy of the challenges of humanitarian experimentation. *International Review of the Red Cross*, 1-26. doi:10.1017/S181638311700042X

McDonald, Sean Martin. (2016) "Ebola: A Big Data Disaster. Privacy, Property, and the Law of Disaster Experimentation." *Inaugural White Paper, Center for Internet & Society*. [Available here](#)

McDonald, Sean Martin. (2015) Frontline and the Missing Middle Mile. *OpenSource.com (online)* [Available here](#)

Banks, Ken, Sean Martin McDonald, and Florence Scialom. "Mobile Technology and the Last Mile: 'Reluctant Innovation' and FrontlineSMS." *Innovations: Technology, Governance, Globalization* 6, no. 1 (2011): 7–12.

McDonald, Sean Martin. "Collective Representation and the Last Mile (Innovations Case Commentary: Protimos)." *Innovations: Technology, Governance, Globalization* 7, no. 1 (2012): 61–64.

McDonald, Sean Martin. "The Case for mLegal (Innovations Case Narrative: mLegal)." *Innovations: Technology, Governance, Globalization* 6, no. 1 (2011): 41–62.

McDonald, Sean Martin. "The New Newsocracy: The New Solution to Armenia's Old Media Problems." *Master's Thesis* (2009) Available upon request.

["Community Data Organizing."](#) *Medium* (2018)

["Your Chief Data Governance Officer."](#) *Medium* (2018)

["Data Review Boards."](#) *Medium* (2018)

["Strava, Contracts, and Our Data Stockholm Syndrome."](#) *Digital Impact* (2018)

["Artificial Intelligence has a Hope Problem."](#) *Medium* (2017)

["Gawker, Facebook, & Governing Truth."](#) *Medium* (2016)

["WhatsApp, Trust, & Trusts."](#) *Medium* (2016)

["Data Law's Radioactive Decay."](#) *Medium* (2016)

["Kik, Azer Koculu, npm, & the Law."](#) *Medium* (2016)

["Ranking the 6 Problems with ICT4D Product Rankings."](#) *ICTWorks* (2016)

["Civic Business,"](#) *Medium* (2015)

["The Cost of SMS \(is a feature, not a bug\)."](#) *FrontlineSMS* (2015)

[“Closing a Door to Open a Window.”](#) *FrontlineSMS* (2014)
[“The Data Divide.”](#) *FrontlineSMS* (2013)
[“A Few Words About Problem Solving.”](#) *FrontlineSMS* (2013)
[“The Multi-Platform Rule of Law.”](#) *Skoll World Forum* (2013)
[“Engaging the Audience to Transform the News.”](#) *PBS Media Shift* (2012)
[“Designing Behavior and the Importance of Being Multi-Channel.”](#) *FrontlineSMS* (2012)
[“The Future of Law is no Field of Dreams,”](#) & [“Deciding Access- Platforms and Process.”](#) *Innovating Justice* (2012)
[“Law in the Last Mile: The Potential of Mobile Integration to Legal Services.”](#) *VoxPoplii* (2011)
[“FrontlineSMS connects people where the web is out of reach.”](#) *Nieman Nieman Lab* (2011)
[“The Unfortunate Simplicity of Freedom.”](#) *Digital Democracy* (2010)

DIGITALPOLITIK NEWSLETTER

Co-Author, 2018 – Present

CAPTURE THE OCEAN PROJECT

Founder, June 2013- Present

- Lead and represent the effort to identify, understand, and advocate for user agency in digital systems

ONESTUDENTRY CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

Founder, Fall 2006- 2009

- Created inter-campus network of students, schools, practitioners, academics, and organizations
- Fundraised more than \$25,000 to support annual conferences and website
- Established, organized, staffed the annual Innovations in Student Leadership Conference, which has run since 2008, drawing hundreds of students, practitioners, donors, academics, and organizations
- Drafted and tested a resource-based conflict negotiation simulation for 80 participants