

KEITH A. PORCARO

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Head of Technology and Development / General Counsel October 2015 - present

Legal Project Director January 2014 – September 2015

SIMLab (formerly FrontlineSMS)

- Leads business development and technology initiatives for DC-based nonprofit. Helps governments, libraries, legal aid organizations, social service providers, and other organizations use technology to build more accessible, responsive, and resilient systems and services.
- Leads Google Impact Award-funded project to build a process tracking system to facilitate the delivery of ~85,000 titles to landless families in Odisha, India (joint project with Landesa).
- Developed American human services portfolio, building technology projects with legal and social service providers. Clients include Bay Area Legal Aid, Legal Aid of Nebraska, and DC Public Library.
- Designed and coded technology prototypes, including legal aid lookup tools and serverless rules engines.
- Conducted technology trainings for civil society organizations in Iraq, Myanmar, and India.
- Leads SIMLab's in-house legal duties.
- Managed spin-off of FrontlineSMS into separate social enterprise.

Select Publications

- Whispering When Everyone is Listening: Technology Deployments in High-Risk Environments. (with Laura Walker Hudson). Communications technology and humanitarian delivery: challenges and opportunities for security risk management, European Interagency Security Forum, 2014
- Worse Than Food, Better than Nothing. Engineering For Change, 2015.

Media

- ABA Journal, June 2016 – “10 Questions: Crafting tech solutions for legal aid”

Select Presentations:

- Legal Services Corporation - Technology Innovation Grants 2016 Conference
 - Thinking in Ecosystems
 - Rapid Fire Technology Talk – Making Complexity Friendly
 - Mobile Strategies Affinity Group (Facilitator)
- RightsCon 2016 – Trusts for Digital Governance (with Sean McDonald)
- 2015 World Bank Land and Poverty Conference – The Digital Land Lab
- 2015 World Bank Law, Justice, and Development Week

Additional Projects

- *Friendly* – Form builder and document assembly tool for non-coders.
- *Mush* – Transmit files over SMS, without the internet.

Chief Operating Officer

Uncharted Play (New York, NY)

August 2012 – January 2013

- Managed operations for small manufacturing startup. Drafted and negotiated multimillion-dollar manufacturing and product development agreement. Settled disputes with third party vendors and clients.

Legal Counsel, Content Strategist

Reboot (thereboot.org) (New York, NY)

September 2011 – August 2012

- Sole legal officer in service design form. Drafted foundational business documents, including vendor and employee contracts, NDAs, and IP policies.
- Led content strategy and messaging redevelopment. Analyzed interviews and user research; provided data framing and final redlines of client work product.

Freelance Attorney

July 2011 – December 2013

- Drafted software licensing agreements, dispute settlement agreements, and investor term sheets for startups.
Established U.S.-based subsidiary for mid-sized Chinese corporation.

Juris Doctor, Duke University School of Law, May 2011

Publications: "Private Ordering & Orphan Works: Our Least Worst Hope?" (2010 Duke L. & Tech. Rev. 015)

Technical Editor, Duke Law & Technology Review | Pro Bono Certificate

BSFS, International Politics (International Development), Georgetown University School of Foreign Service, May 2008

Mandarin immersion program, Harbin Institute of Technology, Harbin, China

Licensed to practice law in California (#281464).

Languages: Mandarin (intermediate proficiency)

Technical Competencies: Python, Ruby, Elixir, Groovy, JavaScript, HTML/CSS

Lisa Dealy, Assistant Dean
Office of Clinical and Pro Bono Programs
Harvard Law School
3085 Wasserstein Hall (WCC)
6 Everett Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Ms. Dealy:

I write to apply for the Access to Justice/Technology Fellow position. My deep experience designing, implementing, and evaluating technology projects for vulnerable populations in the United States and internationally, and my passion for lowering barriers to just outcomes makes me ideally suited for the role.

My philosophy for technology and access to justice is grounded in approaching law as an information system: accepting unstructured (a narrative told to a lawyer, for instance) or semi-structured (say, a court filing) inputs about behaviors, processing and giving structure to those inputs (against rules defined by cases and statute), and outputting new information about expected or future behavior. In this way, law resembles software, and can form the foundation of technology systems designed to make actionable legal information more accessible, and just outcomes less costly. Moreover, often those most in need of help lack the technology fluency or internet access we take for granted. Success here, then, eschews the allure of a smartphone app in favor of building hybrid, flexible systems that deliver equivalent experiences over multiple channels, whether SMS, voice, in-person, or web. Put another way, using technology to improve access to justice requires reaching people where they are, using the tools they're familiar with.

At SIMLab, a nonprofit, I've spent the last two and a half years doing exactly that. I've managed nearly \$1m worth of projects, while building an American portfolio of work around legal and human services. To further that, I've built tools in JavaScript, Ruby, Python, and Groovy, to help users do everything from transmit files over SMS to build legal intake forms without code. My technology experience is deep and autodidactic—I cut my teeth working on Lenovo's global web design team a decade ago, and have freelanced and built a formal computer science background in the time since. My cross-disciplinary resume—with recent work in design, data ethics, and startup operations—has informed a constant drive to attack problems from new angles, and uniquely enables me to leverage Harvard's resources to build a field-leading portfolio of programs.

In short, I've built my career around using technology to deliver help to vulnerable populations, and this position seems a natural fit to continue that pursuit. Thank you for your time, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Keith Porcaro