

Contact

www.linkedin.com/in/maxsills
(LinkedIn)

Top Skills

Legal Writing
Programming
Legal Research

Languages

French (Native or Bilingual)
English (Native or Bilingual)

Certifications

Member of the California Bar

Patents

Smart Solar Tile Networks
Techniques for initiating real-time communication sessions
Tearable Displays
Biometric aware object detection and tracking
Selective Encoding of Packages

Max Sills

General Counsel at Midjourney, Owner at Open Advisory Services
San Francisco, California, United States

Experience

Midjourney

2 years 8 months

General Counsel

February 2023 - Present (1 year 7 months)

Advisor

January 2022 - February 2023 (1 year 2 months)

Open Advisory Services

Owner

February 2023 - Present (1 year 7 months)

We are a boutique firm offering fractional general counsel services for small and medium companies. We specialize in AI and open source.

LedgerDomain

Board Member

March 2020 - Present (4 years 6 months)

Block

Counsel

January 2021 - February 2023 (2 years 2 months)

San Francisco, California, United States

I led the Crypto Open Patent Alliance, and handled open partnerships and IP licensing legal issues for Block.

I designed and started the Bitcoin Legal Defense Fund, and I managed corporate governance and finance for its first year.

Crypto Open Patent Alliance

General Manager

January 2021 - February 2023 (2 years 2 months)

I led the Crypto Open Patent Alliance, including finance, legal, patent licensing, membership structure, and litigation.

Google

Attorney Manager

March 2014 - January 2021 (6 years 11 months)

San Francisco Bay Area

I managed a mixed team of 10 lawyers and program managers across three groups at Google: Open Source Legal, Corporate Governance for Open Source Foundations, and Standards Strategy. I helped structure and negotiate commercial partnerships with open source issues, including several multimillion dollar government deals. I led licensing diligence on over 50 acquisitions and divestitures, including Niantic, Nest, Bebop, and Boston Robotics. I advised on open source and copyright issues in the Oracle v. Google litigation. I helped set uniform IP policy across Alphabet's subsidiaries.

Open Source Legal

The Open Source Legal team managed open source legal and policy issues for the company.

We focused on licensing due diligence for acquisitions and divestitures, reviewed commercial contracts for licensing issues, and set open source policy. We wrote the leading casebook on open source legal issues: <https://opensource.google.com/casebook/>.

Corporate Governance for Foundations

The Corporate Governance team managed the legal relationships for the most important external companies that hold open source IP. I put together the Kotlin Foundation and served on its legal committee, helped design and create the Open Usage Commons and the Mojaloop Foundation, and developed tax, antitrust, and IP policies for several entities.

I sat on the legal committees of LowRISC CIC, Chips Alliance, Open Compute Project, RISC5 Foundation, CNCF, Confidential Computing Foundation, Academy Software Foundation, and the board of the Open Chain Project.

Standards

The standards team advised on IPR issues related to Google standards participation. We created a joint policy, patents, and engineering task-force to coordinate and collect metrics on standards activity across the company. We participated directly in standards development bodies related to geospatial

standards, open data, and programming languages including Javascript and Kotlin.

Leap Motion

Software Engineer and Attorney

May 2013 - February 2014 (10 months)

Legal

I co-managed the patent portfolio and I managed the software licensing program. I assisted with contract review.

Engineering

I was a member of the software architecture team, and technical lead on the metrics team. I did occasional UX/UI research and evangelism.

U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission

Law Clerk

September 2012 - December 2012 (4 months)

Washington D.C.

Division of Risk, Strategy, and Financial Innovation.

I wrote memoranda on the legal standards for quantifying costs in economic analysis, analyzed the sec lending and repo markets, helped shape SOX-certification litigation policy, and designed software to classify semantic themes in corporate disclosures.

World Intellectual Property Organization, United Nations

5 months

Legal Consultant

September 2012 - September 2012 (1 month)

Geneva, Switzerland

I was head of drafting for the revised Staff Regulations and Rules.

Law Clerk

May 2012 - September 2012 (5 months)

Geneva, Switzerland

I negotiated and drafted contracts, and helped develop procurement and human resources policy.

Education

Vanderbilt University Law School

Doctor of Law (J.D.) · (2010 - 2013)

Case Western Reserve University

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), Mathematics and Cognitive Science · (2006 - 2010)

Culver Military Academy

· (2002 - 2006)