

The Carol and Lawrence Zicklin Center for Business Ethics Research

Research Project

Topic: A series of projects on corporate information security, consumer data and law

Principal Investigator: Andrea M. Matwyszyn

Time Frame: 2008-2009

Description: This series of normative and empirical projects will explore the interaction among corporate information security practices, consumer personally identifiable information and law. Projects will analyze the current state of corporate information security best practices regarding disclosure of security vulnerabilities and ethical treatment of consumer information, as well as the relationship of consumer information security behaviors to contract law, criminal law and intellectual property law.

The first of these projects is set forth below:

Edited volume entitled *HARBORING DATA: INFORMATION SECURITY, LAW AND THE CORPORATION* (Stanford Press 2008). Corporations are currently plagued by rampant data breaches of consumer data and proprietary information. Existing U.S. regulatory frameworks do not reflect an understanding of the dynamic business realities of data collection and leveraging, providing little hope for mitigating corporate information security inadequacies. This book engages in a bottom-up examination of the causes of data breaches. It reveals the emergent nature of corporate data leakage and vulnerability, as well as some of the areas where corporate practices and current regulatory frameworks fall short. Analyzing these shortcomings in a multidisciplinary fashion facilitates crafting future regulation and corporate information policy in a more thoughtful manner.