

Laura Deaner

VP & Chief Information Security Officer (CISO), Northwestern Mutual

As Vice President and Chief Information Security Officer (CISO), Laura Deaner is accountable for establishing and steering Northwestern Mutual's enterprise-wide cybersecurity and information risk management strategy. In this role, she champions the implementation of an integrated risk culture, driving effective operation of technical and administrative controls. Further, Laura works closely with the executive leadership team and Board of Trustees, matching effective controls to an appropriate level of risk tolerance. Laura also leads the enterprise's second line of defense, where she is responsible for prioritizing and sequencing the treatment of information security risks, aligned with industry-standard risk management frameworks. She frequently presents to the Board, regulators, clients, and financial advisors throughout the U.S. Her philosophy of embedding cybersecurity into the culture, technology, and business, has transformed the way the company addresses cyber risk.

Prior to joining to Northwestern Mutual in early 2021, Laura was CISO at S&P Global, where she was responsible for establishing and driving the enterprise information security vision and program. In this role, she built a robust information security program aligned to the lines of business priorities and local regulation. Laura's deep technical expertise with executive business presence took the company through a cyber transformation and the build out of Business Information Security Officers. She was an integral voice for diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and served on the S&P Global Diversity Equity and Inclusion Council, tasked with fostering a diverse and inclusive environment. Laura's accomplishments as a council member have included revamping the Employee Resource Groups, adding sentiment, objectives, and key results (OKRs) to enhance the community goals. Further, she worked to establish partnerships with various organizations to build diverse talent pipelines in the technology organizations, such as Girls Who Code.

Prior to joining S&P Global in 2016, Laura was the first named CISO at PR Newswire, where she built a comprehensive security practice from the ground up. While in role, she had to handle significant cyber events and incidents, including leading the company through its [first public breach](#). Her experience prior to PR Newswire included three financial services companies, where Laura performed in various cybersecurity technical and leadership roles.

In December 2019, she became a Board of Director Member of Financial Services Information Sharing and Analysis Center (FS-ISAC), an industry consortium dedicated to reducing cyber-risk in the global financial system. FS-ISAC has more than 7,000 financial institutions, 15,000 users in the seventy jurisdictions to ensure the mission is accomplished. As an active board member, Laura performs governance duties, as well as continues to encourage more participation in sharing timely cyber information, which is action-oriented at a global scale. In 2023, she was re-elected by community vote to continue serving on the FS-ISAC Board. Laura also serves as an Advisory Board member of Technology and Security companies.

In July 2019, Laura served as a Co-chair of the Global Futures Council on Cybersecurity for The World Economic Forum, leading a group of global subject matter experts in solving cyber challenges and contributing on the world stage at Davos in 2020 and at the Annual Meeting on Cybersecurity.

Laura holds a bachelor's degree in computer science from Old Dominion University in the state of Virginia. She is published in several magazines and books listed in the Notable section.

Laura is an advocate for diversity and inclusion in technology, as well as her field of cybersecurity. She served as an Ambassador for Cyversity, a non-profit dedicated to building out a diverse and inclusive workforce in cybersecurity. She is a member of several information security and technology societies including OWASP, WiCyS, ISC2, and Society of Women Engineers (SWE).

Laura is a frequently requested speaker and respected thought leader, recognized for her innovative leadership and strong business acumen. The list below serves to highlight some recent notable events, speaking engagements, books, articles, vlogs, as well as references for the Boards she serves.

Laura loves spending time with her family. She and her partner Murray are proud parents of wonderful boys in NYC public schools. They live in Brooklyn, NY, where they love getting outdoors as a family for hiking, bike rides and amateur astronomy star gazing. She is also a major fan of science fiction and tinkering with technology at home. Don't ask her how many raspberry pi's she has.

Books:

- Fight Fire with Fire: Proactive Cybersecurity Strategies for Today's Leaders
- The Perfect Scorecard: Getting An 'A' in Cybersecurity From Your Board Of Directors
- Women Know Cyber: 100 Fascinating Females Fighting Cybercrime

Video (Speaking engagements and media appearances):

- FS-ISAC *FinCyber Today* podcast – The Business Case for Diversity – April 2023
- Now You Know #20: Laura Deaner and Bojan Simic on The Passwordless Reality – April 2023
- *Cybercrime Magazine* - September 2022
- Now You Know #8: Laura Deaner on Reducing Risk – October 2022
- Now You Know #14: Laura Deaner and Bojan Simic on Passwordless Advocates – November 2022
- ODU – Becoming a Chief Information Security Officer – May 2021
- RSA Panel – A Year of Living Dangerously: Resilience After COVID & Killer Hornets – May 2021
- NYU School of Law - Women Leaders in Cybersecurity: Privacy 2021 – March 2021
- World Economic Forum – Global Cybersecurity Outlook | DAVOS 2020 – January 2020
- Debate Security – Cybersecurity Technology Efficacy – September 2020
- PwC's What's next in Cyber: How cyber leaders are becoming value creators – September 2020
- *Cybercrime Magazine* - Ask the CISO #20 – November 2019

Media articles/blogs/other notables:

- *InformationWeek*: 6 Pain Points for CISOs and CIOs and What to Do About Them – October 2023
- *Security Current*: CISO Spotlight – May 2023
- *CISO Bytes*: Invest In Your People – February 2023
- Defense in Depth: CISO Series – Do We Need a Marketing Manager for the Security Team? – November 2022
- *The Wall Street Journal (WSJ)*: Heightened Cyber Threat Brings CIOs, CISOs Closer – September 2022
- *BuiltIn* – Meet Northwestern Mutual's Cybersecurity JEDI – September 2022
- Panelist at NYDFS Cybersecurity Symposium – The Human Factor: Leadership, Governance and Diversity in Cybersecurity – April 2022
- Speaker at Grace Hopper Conference: Whodunit? Investigating A Cyber Incident in 22 Minutes or Less - 2021
- *CSO Online* – Resist the urge to solve stuff fast - October 2021
- FS-ISAC Insights – There is a C in ESG – November 2020
- *Forbes*: Is The Cybersecurity Industry Selling Lemons? – October 2020
- *The Wall Street Journal (WSJ)*: Security Experts Alarmed by "Broken" Cyber Market – October 2020
- *Smore Children's Magazine* – Cybersecurity Leader – May 2020
- *Cybercrime Magazine* – Work life balance – November 2019

Awards:

- Security Current C100 CISO Award – 2023, 2022, 2021
- Old Dominion University Alumni Award for Achievement – 2021
- OnConferences Top 100 Information Security Professional - 2023

Advisory and Board work:

- Board member of the [Financial Services Information Sharing and Analytics Center](#) – 2020 to present
- Advisory Board member of [Blue Voyant](#) – 2021 to present
- [Advisory Council Member](#) for the NYU Tandon School of Engineering
- [Cyber Hero](#) for WorkED – NY Public Schools Regional Cybersecurity Externship
- World50 [Faculty Member](#)
- [Cyversity](#) Ambassador - 2022
- Executive Sponsor of the Asian Employee Resource Group at Northwestern Mutual – 2021

World Economic Forum:

- Co-Chair of the [Global Futures Council for Cybersecurity](#) – 2019 - 2021
- Participant in the [Annual Meeting on Cybersecurity](#) – November 2019