

WILSON SONSINI

Joseph (Tony) Misher

ASSOCIATE

Data, Privacy, and
Cybersecurity
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FOCUS AREAS

Artificial Intelligence and
Machine Learning

Data, Privacy, and
Cybersecurity

Government Investigations

National Security and Trade

Strategic Risk and Crisis
Management

EXPERIENCE

Joseph (Tony) Misher is an associate in the Washington, D.C., office of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, where he advises technology companies on cybersecurity risk management, regulatory compliance, incident response, and digital investigations. His practice spans cloud infrastructure (PaaS, SaaS, IaaS), artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), operational technology (OT), Internet of Things (IoT), and data-driven platforms.

Tony brings a breadth of experience from government service, where he served as both a federal prosecutor and a senior cyber executive in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). During his time in government, Tony led and directed cybersecurity operations, developed national standards for cyber-physical risk management, and investigated and prosecuted cybercrime cases. His experience includes guiding organizations and companies through complex governance, legal, and compliance frameworks including FISMA, FedRAMP, NDAA, Privacy Act, ISO/IEC, and NIST, as well as guiding start-ups to operationalize their solutions through DHS's Silicon Valley Innovation Program.

Tony has led incident response efforts impacting enterprise cybersecurity and third-party breaches and improved incident handling and escalation processes to improve resolution timelines. He has developed methodologies for identifying risks in IT and OT environments and advised on implementation and security of Generative AI in law enforcement operations. His work in cybersecurity governance and compliance includes drafting cybersecurity standards for critical infrastructure and OT, managing privacy reviews for surveillance and intelligence technologies, and guiding regulators through novel risks introduced by IT/OT convergence.

As a federal prosecutor, Tony gained extensive experience working with threat intelligence and cybersecurity experts across the federal government and private industry. He handled a high volume of domestic and international law enforcement requests and prosecuted cases involving computer network intrusions, ransomware groups, dark web marketplaces, cryptocurrency, wire fraud, and identity theft.

Tony leverages his background to help clients translate technical complexity into actionable compliance strategies. He combines federal enforcement experience with operational cybersecurity leadership to advise on incident response, regulatory engagement, procurement, and risk mitigation across IT and OT environments. His approach is practical and results-driven, supporting organizations navigating investigations, technology integrations, contracts, and emerging governance challenges.

Prior to joining the firm, Tony held senior roles within the DHS focused on cyber operations and capability building, penetration testing, and national risk assessment methodologies for critical infrastructure. His career began in federal law enforcement and the U.S. Air Force, where he developed operational leadership and investigative acumen across high-risk environments.

CREDENTIALS

Education

- Global Information Assurance Certification (GIAC) Law of Data Security and Investigations Certified, SANS Technology Institute (“STI”), 2023
- J.D., University of Baltimore School of Law, 2018
Cum Laude
- B.A., Jurisprudence, University of Baltimore, 2015
Summa Cum Laude

Honors

- Recognized as the “Homeland’s Human Firewall” during the 2024 *Homeland Security Today Awards*

Admissions

- Bar of the District of Columbia

INSIGHTS

Select Publications

- Co-contributor, *The Risk Management Process for Federal Facilities: An Interagency Security Committee Standard*, Interagency Security Committee, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, 2013

Select Speaking Engagements

- Presenter, “Breaking and Entering: Casing the Target for Good and Evil,” Global Security Exchange (GSX), September 2018
- Presenter, “Lessons Learned from a Federal Penetration Tester,” BSidesCharm, April 2018
- Presenter, “Breaking and Entering: Lessons Learned from a Federal Penetration Tester,” ASIS Annual Seminar, September 2017