The national airspace, as well as the entire world of aviation, is undergoing a major transformation with the advent and rapid advancement of unmanned aircraft being used for myriad commercial, academic, government, and recreational endeavors. The rising popularity of unmanned aircraft is revolutionizing the field of aviation at a record rate, with new and innovative aircraft and payload technologies emerging every day. Yet the laws governing unmanned aircraft are advancing at a much slower pace, as law typically does with respect to technology and technological operations.

Laws and legal areas affecting unmanned aircraft are vast, including but extending significantly beyond the areas of privacy and airspace integration, which are prominent legal topics in the news today. Issues of law surrounding the safety and security of unmanned aircraft, for example, couple together to form a complex set of compound legal challenges. The emergence of unmanned aircraft insurance, risk management, and product liability further this legal complexity. Constitutional issues are also emerging, especially in the areas of the First, Second, Fourth, and Fifth Amendments, giving rise to an expanding arena of potential unmanned aircraft-related constitutional challenges by both citizens and entities such as the media.

This book provides insight into the emerging areas of unmanned aircraft law with a technological perspective. With the understanding that the law and the technology it regulates form a complex and intertwined bond, this book covers both the laws of unmanned aircraft and the respective technological foundations required to understand and work with the law in an informed manner. Unmanned aircraft law is a subset of aviation law, with its own unique perspective. As such, aviation law foundations are critical to the unmanned aviation legal scholar/practitioner and are covered appropriately throughout the book. Also covered are the legal foundations of insurance and risk, product liability, system security, information assurance, and safety. Additionally, this book has a section on constitutional law, covering emerging areas that may impact civil rights and civil liberties, as well as issues concerning the media, such as freedom of the press and freedom to cover stories involving collaboration with law enforcement.

Overall, this book strives to open a dialog surrounding the emerging area of unmanned aircraft and aviation law. It provides a balanced view of the various legal issues and perspectives surrounding the regulation and use of civilian unmanned aircraft in the national airspace. It also provides suggestions, recommendations, and
proposed legal frameworks to help develop and enhance the understanding of specific unmanned aircraft legal areas.

Finally, this book is written to accommodate all readers, from the general public to those in the legal profession, as well as those operating or utilizing unmanned aircraft for commercial, academic, government, or recreation purposes. Topics are developed systematically to ensure that all readers can learn and benefit from the material. Legal issues and technological issues are intertwined to ensure holistic understanding and practical application of the legal topics. In essence, this book brings together the legal, technological, and operational perspectives of unmanned aircraft law into one comprehensive resource.