



Chair's Message

I hope everyone had a good summer with some family, fun, and relaxing. Now we forge ahead to finish up the year. This has been a busy and innovative year for the Forum on Air & Space Law. Our practice committees (Space Law; Consumer Protection; Drones; General, Business and Charter Aviation; and Aviation and Space Finance) are very active, with regular calls and conferences, and will be holding break-out sessions during the Annual Conference in Chicago in September. If you haven't yet joined one, consider it. If you don't find a committee that focuses on your niche in aviation or space, consider creating one. We'd be happy to help.

This year is the fortieth anniversary of the Airline Deregulation Act (ADA). This edition of *The Air & Space Lawyer* includes some articles about the ADA, which dovetails nicely into the theme of the Annual Conference in Chicago. We also have articles on aircraft/equipment finance and on-orbit satellite servicing standards. There's always a little something for everyone in *The Air & Space Lawyer*. We hope you enjoy it.

This edition is arriving just as the Forum's Annual Conference takes place. We look forward to a fascinating program as well as the opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones from across the spectrum of the aviation and space law bar. Our keynote speakers include Fred Smith, Chairman and CEO of FedEx Corp., and Robert Rivkin, currently Deputy Mayor of Chicago and formerly DOT General Counsel and Senior Vice President at Delta Air Lines. Recognizing the anniversary of the ADA, the conference agenda, through a series of panels, will consider the results of deregulation, while also examining regulation in the Trump era and beyond. Conference sessions will also cover many other topics, including airports, cybersecurity, distribution, labor, and commercial space, in addition to the practice committee break-out sessions I mentioned. Great thanks and congratulations go to our Conference Program co-chairs Bob Span and Steve Taylor and their Program Committee for conceiving and organizing a first-rate program.

Finally, I want to follow up on the changes to the ABA's membership model, which I've mentioned in prior messages. In August the House of Delegates and Board of Governors approved a New Membership Model that includes a reduction in annual dues commencing in September 2019; complimentary "opt-in" membership to the Divisions on Law Practice and Solo, Small Firm and General Practice; and curated content, both general information and CLE, available to all for no charge. The process of getting to this plan was quite detailed, involving many people who donated their time and ideas. The Section Officers Conference (comprising the top leadership of each Section, Division, and Forum) was instrumental in working with the ABA on the final benefits package. I daresay a lot of us were reminded how much better we are when we work together for a common goal. Keep your eyes open for developments and information from the ABA.

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