



## Chair's Message

**A**s we reflect on the last year, we have much to celebrate. At our gathering in Seattle, we enjoyed a program full of cutting-edge topics—from innovation and digitization to the latest in UTC developments to issues around passenger misconduct during flights. We were treated to a VIP tour of the Boeing Everett facility, which produces the 747, 777, 767, and Dreamliner, and a reception at Amazon Spheres. We learned from each other, laughed with each other, and came away from our time inspired and connected. Special thanks to our cochairs, Brian Friedman, Jeremy Ross, and Jack Rossi for putting together an innovative and engaging program.

The Governing Committee and membership also had an opportunity to hear from our strategic planning consultant, David Tabak, who updated us on the input from our membership on the priorities set by our membership and leaders for the coming years. With the approval of the Governing Committee, we will begin the hard work of implementing the key goals of the strategic plan, which include a governance refresh, as well as enhancing our programming and communications, and improving our financial position over the next few years.

As we heard in Seattle, our timing is particularly timely given the many structural changes occurring at the larger ABA level, and we are hopeful that these changes will ensure our continued position as the go-to resource for learning and networking within the commercial aviation and space bar. I'm pleased to report that our chair-elect, Marc Warren, will be heading up our governance committee. If you are interested in getting involved with the next phase of our strategic plan implementation, please let me know.

I hope you enjoy this issue of *The Air & Space Lawyer*, and the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Chicago Convention. We have some great articles on the history and future of international civil aviation from aviation law legends Jeff Shane and Don Bliss, and interviews with ICAO U.S. Ambassador Thomas Carter, Council President Olumuyiwa Benard Aliu, and Secretary General Fang Liu. We will also be commemorating the anniversary at our upcoming Update Conference in Washington, D.C., on February 28. To this end, we would love to feature your personal and professional reflections on the Chicago Convention over the years via video and text. If you are interested in contributing, please contact David Israel at [david.israel@americanbar.org](mailto:david.israel@americanbar.org).

Warm wishes for a relaxing and happy Holiday Season and New Year!

Jennifer Trock  
Chair, Forum on Air and Space Law

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