



## Drone Law Committee

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By Dean E. Griffith and Kelli A. Hooke



Keeping up with developments in the drone industry can be daunting. The FAA is poised to issue its first major drone rule since 2016; drone technology is advancing; testing is being performed by Integration Pilot Program participants, Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Test Sites, the UAS Center of Excel-

lence, and the industry itself; and the debate around whether authority to regulate drone operations should be shared with state and local governments rages on.

The Drone Law Committee provides lawyers in industry, government, and the private sector a forum in which to discuss and stay current on the latest issues affecting the industry. The Drone Law Committee membership is unique: members not only work in a variety of practice settings but they also come from different backgrounds beyond aviation. In addition to aviation, the Committee roster includes lawyers practicing in such areas as telecommunications, government contracting, cybersecurity, and energy. This diverse membership is rooted in the fact that drones, at their core, are flying computers that can be used for a variety of tasks.

Our goal as co-chairs is to offer timely and informative programming helpful to Committee members' practices and to provide opportunities to interact with other members and expand their networks. The

Committee's programming includes bimonthly calls and an in-person annual conference. The bimonthly calls provide members a convenient way to hear from industry leaders on topics of the day. Recent calls featured ways in which drones have been used to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, research being done by UAS Integration Pilot Program participants, and the FAA's UAS Remote Identification Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.

In September, the Committee will be holding a series of webinars featuring thought leaders addressing questions regarding the public attitude and acceptance of drones, regulatory developments, spectrum considerations, public contracting issues, and use and deployment of counter unmanned aircraft systems. These webinars will be held in lieu of our annual conference this year, traditionally held in June in Washington, D.C.

In addition to our formal programming, we also encourage our members to use ABA Connect to post questions, articles, or anything drone-related that they find interesting.

The Committee also offers an opportunity for leadership. Any and all ideas for programming are welcome, as is participation in Committee governance.

We look forward to you joining the Drone Law Committee!

For more information, visit our website at [https://www.americanbar.org/groups/air\\_space/divisions/drone\\_law/](https://www.americanbar.org/groups/air_space/divisions/drone_law/) or contact us at the email addresses listed below.

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