



Chair's Message

It feels like a lifetime ago that we were together in Washington, D.C., for our Spring Update Conference. Reflecting back, I remember our sense of community and the camaraderie and support we shared—all hallmarks of our Forum and characteristic of our members.

How quickly the world—our aviation world—has changed. For those who have been personally impacted by COVID-19, our hearts are with you. And the Forum stands with the aviation industry as we navigate these truly uncharted skies. The Forum has long been a place aviation lawyers have turned to for leadership, guidance, and support, and we are committed to helping our members, and the industry, through this time. We have dedicated this issue to all the aviation workers, on front lines and behind the scenes, working tirelessly to maintain employees' and customers' safety and to bring the industry back stronger than ever as we emerge from the most significant aviation crisis in history.

As we move past the initial survival phase and towards recovery and renewal, our clients need their lawyers to provide more than legal advice—they need them to serve as trusted advisors and partners. Many of us are called to go beyond advising on “normal” business and regulatory issues to advise on the most complex and, in some cases, existential issues that we will face in our lifetimes. As always, the Forum and the *Air and Space Lawyer* will be here to provide needed substantive content and perspective.

This issue features a candid interview with Southwest Airlines CLO Mark Shaw on challenges facing the industry. It also presents articles on the Chicago Convention and mutual recognition obligations in the context of responding to accidents, liquidated damages for aircraft leases, and potential changes to the FAA registry.

We hope we can be together for our September Annual Conference. Instead of meeting in Montreal, we are planning a combined virtual and in-person conference in D.C. September 8–11, with the in-person session on September 11. We will, of course, follow applicable guidelines to protect members' health and well-being. If we are unable to meet in person, we will convert the September 11 session to virtual sessions. All eight committees (Space, Drones, Finance, General Aviation, Consumer Protection, Cargo, Sustainability, and Airports) will provide virtual content for the remainder of the month. In appreciation of our members and in light of our sector's financial difficulties, members' registration fees will be waived for all September content.

While this is a challenging time, our industry is innovative and resilient. I hope you share my confidence that together we will weather this storm and come out even stronger. In the meantime, be well and please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or suggestions or if you need assistance along the way. You can reach me at jennifer.trock@bakermckenzie.com or 202-452-7055.

Jennifer Trock

Chair, Forum on Air and Space Law

Jennifer Trock (jennifer.trock@bakermckenzie.com) chairs Baker McKenzie's North America International Commercial Practice Group, is a member of its Global Aviation Group in Washington, D.C., and leads the firm's unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) focus team.