



Chair's Message

Dear Colleagues,

The aerospace industry continues to meet and deal with the challenges of the twenty-first century, with congestion, the price of fuel, and the growth of interest in space tourism as top issues. *The Air & Space Lawyer* consistently brings us pertinent articles on issues of immediate interest and I want to thank Editor-in-Chief Ken Quinn, Managing Editor Jonathan Cross, and the rest of the editorial board for maintaining the quality of our publication.

Our annual meeting last October in Memphis had one impressive panel after another with wide participation from the aviation and space bar. Marion Blakey, former FAA Administrator, shared her views on the importance of paying attention to environmental issues; Jeff Shane, Undersecretary at DOT, spoke on the challenges facing us internationally; and we had dynamic remarks from Fred Smith, CEO of FedEx, and Phil Trenary, CEO of Pinnacle Airlines, about the challenges they face in running their businesses today.

Our 2008 Update Conference in Washington, D.C., will be on January 31 at the Ritz-Carlton, with thanks to the efforts of the Program Committee led by Patricia Snyder. Highlights include a distinguished panel on the legislative and regulatory outlook for the coming year, opening remarks from Robert Lekites of UPS, and a lunchtime keynote address from DOT Deputy Secretary Admiral Thomas J. Barrett.

The planning for our 2008 Annual Meeting and Program in Montreal, September 17-20, is under way thanks to the able leadership of our own budget officer, David Schwarte, and Paul Dempsey of McGill University. Our last meeting in Montreal, co-hosted by McGill, was our most-attended, and

we look forward to another terrific program with an international focus. Please mark your calendars now for what promises to be a meeting not to be missed.

I am particularly pleased to report that the Forum, with assistance from GECAS, awarded its first scholarships for students to attend the last meeting. The recipients of the award for the Annual Meeting in Memphis were Vanessa Lantin (U.S. Bankruptcy Court) and Sara Langson (Leiden University). We have two more scholarship winners for the meeting in January, Jasmine Modoor (Howard University) and Laszlo Szabo (Rutgers University).

We will also be highlighting the kick-off of our scholarship writing competition at the next conference, with an award of \$5,000 provided by Rolls-Royce, to be awarded at the Annual Conference in Montreal. Kudos also go to our Law Student liaison, Jeremy Juenger, for starting an Air & Space Law On-Line Forum to facilitate communication between students and practitioners in aerospace law.

As we move forward in the New Year, I want to encourage you to get involved with the Forum's activities. The benefits of learning from friends and colleagues in the industry are incalculable and there are many different types of volunteer opportunities. The Forum will continue to grow and provide cutting edge materials through your commitment of time and interest. Please feel free to contact me, or our dedicated Forum staff liaison, Dawn Holiday (holidayd@staff.abanet.org), to get involved.

I look forward to seeing you soon!

Nancy D. LoBue