Space Law Guide

Georgia State University College of Law Student

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Space Law Guide

Introduction
This research guide is a starting point for a law student or an attorney to research the area of Space Law. This guide should not be considered as legal advice or as a legal opinion on any specific facts or circumstances. If you need further assistance in researching these topics or have specific legal questions, please contact a reference librarian in the Georgia State University College of Law Library or consult an attorney.

Space Law: Brief Overview
Space Law deals at its most basic level with the regulation of objects sent into, and removed from, space. It is largely governed by international agreements, and by statutes in nations which have an active space program.

Primary Sources

U.S. Statutes and Regulations Regarding Space

- 51 U.S.C.A--"Commercial Space Launch Act"
- 47 U.S.C.A -- "Communications Satellite Act": Table of Contents
- 42 U.S.C.A- "NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2010" : Table of Contents
- 51 U.S.C.A - "National Aeronautics and Space Act" Table of Contents

International Agreements Governing Space

- The 1979 Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies ("Moon Treaty"). Ratified by only a few countries, none of which are major space powers.
- The 1975 Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space ("Registration Convention").
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- The 1968 Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space ("Rescue Agreement").
- The 1967 Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies ("Outer Space Treaty"). Ratified by over 100 countries, including all major space powers.

These are the primary guiding laws for space.

Emerging Topics in Space Law

- Who is liable for damage to satellites caused by space "junk", and what happens when a falling satellite causes terrestrial damage?
- What kinds of regulations should be in place to ensure safety for civilians who venture into space? How do we balance safety with efficiency and minimization of costs?
- What can we legally take from space and Solar bodies? Can we keep the benefits of extraction, or should they be disgorged for the benefit of all mankind?

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Guide Index
- Guide URL: http://libguides.law.gsu.edu/space_law_guide
- Last Updated: Nov 15, 2012
- Guide Information
- Tags: aerospace, lunar, lunar mining, space law

Space Law Legislation: Global Index

- Every United Nations Space Treaty
- The overlay of law onto the final frontier, as seen from 10000 feet.
- International space law- an overview
- Below is a link to a U.N. document which compiles these five agreements.

- The 1979 Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies ("Moon Treaty"). Ratified by only a few countries, none of which are major space powers.
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- What is the extent of legal status and jurisdictional reach of the agencies operating in space? Where do the laws of the celestial bodies begin and end?
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Space Law Associations, Committees, Organizations, Blogs, and Websites

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Space Law Organizations
- American Bar Association Committee on Air and Space Law
  http://www.americanbar.org/groups/air_space.html
- Rutgers Admiralty, Aviation and Space Law Association
  http://raasla.newark.rutgers.edu/
- International Law Association: Space Law Committee
- European Space Policy Institute
  http://www.espi.or.at/
- United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs
  http://www.oosa.unvienna.org/
- Air & Space Lawyer
- Journal of Air Law and Commerce
  Articles also available on HeinOnline.
- Journal of Space Law

Space Law Journals
- Corpus Juris Secondum Aeronautics and Aerospace: Table of Contents
  http://gilfind.gsu.edu/vufind/Record/29688/Holdings#tabnav
  Publication Date: 1985-02-07
  ISBN: 0198253982
  Call Number: KZD1145 .F39 1984
- Space & Commercial Law (Space) and at a joint meeting with Committee H (Insurance) by International Bar Association. Section on Business Law.
  Publication Date: 2007-02-01
  ISBN: 0754624560
  Call Number: KZD1145 .S63 2007
- Space Law by Robert McCorquodale (Editor); Francis Lyall (Editor); Paul B. Larsen (Editor)
  Publication Date: 1992-08-30
  ISBN: 0275940365
  Call Number: KZD1145 .S733 1992

These articles may be accessed on Westlaw or Lexis. However, all hyperlinks are to Westlaw.

Seminal cases on space law issues are sparse. Many of the major areas of the field are theoretical, and have not yet been litigated.

Space Law Book and Treatise Resources-GSU Law Library
- Air & Space Lawyer

LAW VERSUS POWER ON THE HIGH FRONTIER: THE CASE FOR A RULE-BASED REGIME FOR OUTER SPACE
This article discusses the need to avoid the use or stationing of weapons in space, and instead focusing on the rule of law, instead of power in the solar system.

THE TRAGEDY OF THE COMMON HERITAGE OF MANKIND
This article discusses some of the problems caused by the phrase and legal concept "common heritage of mankind" to the development of space infrastructure and resource exploitation.

LAW’S EMPIRE AND THE FINAL FRONTIER: LEGALIZING THE FUTURE IN THE EARLY CORPUS JURIS SPATIALIS
This article discusses the framework of space law as applied to lunar mining, a very hot issue currently.

Examined issues of governmental immunity for damages when rocket test firings caused property damage.

Stolen Moon rock was forfeited after being purchased in Honduras.

U.S. v. One Lucite Ball

Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice v. George Herbert Walker Bush
**Space Law Blogs**

- **Space Travel Law News**
  - [http://spacetravellaw.blogspot.com/](http://spacetravellaw.blogspot.com/)
  - Covers major news, interesting legal developments and emerging trends having to do with commercial space flight and development.

- **Res Communis**
  - [http://rescommunis.olemiss.edu/](http://rescommunis.olemiss.edu/)
  - A blog on the legal aspects of the application of aerospace technology.

- **Juriscienta**
  - [http://juriscientia.com/](http://juriscientia.com/)
  - A more general blog on law and technology that often deals with space law issues.

**Space Law, Policy, and News Websites**

- **SpacePolicyOnline.Com**
  - Excellent and up-to-date source on general news and analysis for almost every area of space utilization.

- **SPACE.com**
  - [http://www.space.com/](http://www.space.com/)
  - Generalized information about space and space exploration.

- **The Space Review: essays and commentary about the final frontier**
  - Devoted to in-depth articles, commentary, and reviews regarding all aspects of space exploration: science, technology, policy, business, and more.

- **European Space Policy Institute**
  - [http://www.espi.or.at/](http://www.espi.or.at/)
  - Provides overview and commentary on mid to long-term issues in European space development.

- **Space Policy Journal**
  - [http://www.journals.elsevier.com/space-policy/#description](http://www.journals.elsevier.com/space-policy/#description)
  - Online journal that covers international issues in space policy.

- **Space Politics**
  - Keeps up to date on governmental issues that might impact space development.

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