Space Law Guide

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Space Law Guide

Introduction
This guide is intended to be 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.

Disclaimer
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.

Emerging Topics in Space Law
Some issues have come to the forefront recently, largely as the result of advancing technology and policy decisions.

Regulations on Launches
The 1966 Outer Space Treaty prohibits states from placing objects in orbit or sending objects into space that are designed to cause damage or destruction. This rule is designed to prevent the accumulation of space debris and to protect the interests of those using space. The United States has accepted this rule, and it is reflected in its national space policy.

Liability for Satellites
Liability for Satellites and Materials in Orbit- Governments that Operate Satellites Face Unlimited Liability Risk
The 1972 Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects (“Liability Convention”) contains provisions that require states to be liable for damage caused by their space objects. However, the Liability Convention has only been ratified by a small number of states, and it is not clear how it would be applied in practice.

Who is liable for damage to satellites caused by space “junk,” and what happens when a falling satellite causes terrestrial damage?

Safety--Space Tourism and Private Space Travel Must Be Safe, House Panel Says

Resource Extraction--Lunar Mining Idea Digs Up Legal Issues
http://www.space.com/10621-moon-mining-legal-issues.html

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.

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.

International Agreements Governing Space

Secondary Sources

Space Law Legislation: Global Index

Space Law Guide - LibGuides at Georgia State University College of Law
Space Law Guide - LibGuides at Georgia State University College of Law

Space Law Organizations

Space Law Journals

Space Law Treatises-Westlaw

Space Law Associations, Committees, Organizations, Blogs, and Websites

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Space Law Organizations

Space Law Journals

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Space Law Associations, Committees, Organizations, Blogs, and Websites
Space Law Blogs

- SPACE TRAVEL LAW NEWS
  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/
  A blog on the legal aspects of the application of aerospace technology.

- Juriscienta
  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
  http://www.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/
  Generalized information about space and space exploration.

- The Space Review: essays and commentary about the final frontier
  http://www.thespacereview.com/
  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/
  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
  Online journal that covers international issues in space policy.

- Space Politics
  http://www.spacepolitics.com/
  Keeps up to date on the latest governmental issues that might impact space development.

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