

LMI sponsors Annual Galloway Symposium on Space Law

On December 5, the International Institute of Space Law (IISL) hosted the 13th Annual IISL Eilene M. Galloway Memorial Symposium on Critical Issues in Space Law at the Cosmos Club in Washington, DC. LMI Advisors was an anchor sponsor.

Regulatory Reform from the Office of Space Commerce

The morning keynote speaker was Kevin O’Connell, Director of the Office of Space Commerce and the Department of Commerce, speaking on the use of “Light Touch, Permissive Regulation” for advancing space commerce. The Director emphasized that permissive regulation did not mean permissionless regulation. He also noted that there would be a presumption of approval. Attendees were very interested in when new regulations and reforms of the commercial space industry would be published. The Director responded that the discussion was just starting and input would be welcomed from everyone.

Space Traffic Management

The first panel of the morning concerned Space Traffic Management and developing sustainable solutions. It was moderated by Diane Howard, Executive Secretary of IISL. She gave a presentation on behalf of Bhavya Lal from the IDA Science and Technology Policy Institute, and was followed by a presentation from Moriba Jah, Distinguished Scholar at the Robert Strauss Center for International Security and Law at the University of Texas at Austin.

Mr. Jah discussed his work in tracking orbital debris, and shared visuals from his team’s work at [AstriaGraph](#) demonstrating that use of different existing data sources produces varying results in the precise location of a space object at a given time. Philip Cunio, a senior systems engineer at ExoAnalytic Solutions discussed operation of their optical deep-space tracking system. The panelists discussed what could be done to improve SSA and orbital debris tracking. Discussion with the attendees included the issue of whether SSA data is or is not a public good and the necessity of private SSA firms to secure

a reasonable return on capital investments. Dr. Jah noted that there is a need for not only more data but also better data.

Due Regard and the Demarcation of Outer Space

Gabriel Swiney, Office of Legal Advisor at the U.S. Department of State, made a presentation on the concept “Due Regard” in the Outer Space Treaty, and what responsibilities that carried for the space industry and satellite operators.

Jonathan McDowell, an astrophysicist at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, then made a presentation on corrections to the location the Karman line, which is proposed by some as dividing airspace and outer space.

They were joined by Jack Beard, Professor at the University of Nebraska College of Law, and Chris Johnson, Space Law Advisor at the Secure World Foundation, to discuss the implications of “Due Regard” and the demarcation of outer space for national security and space commerce. The panel agreed that wherever the line for outer space is drawn, the issue will be forced by the increase in commercial activity so close to traditionally recognized airspace, either by low flying mega-satellite constellations or point-to-point suborbital human spaceflight.

Dr Peter Martinez on International Rule Making

The lunch keynote speaker was Dr. Peter Martinez, who recently became the Executive Director of the Secure World Foundation. Dr. Martinez spoke on his experiences with the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, and the importance of international rule making. He commented, “Space sustainability is inherently multilateral.”

Space Law Career Panel

After lunch, Matthew Schaefer, professor and co-director of the Space Law program at the University of Nebraska College of Law, led a panel on Careers in Space Law, as part of their NASA Space Law Network, which currently funds travel for law students from across the country to attend events like the Galloway Symposium and meet potential employers.

The panel was comprised of Michelle Kley, Senior V.O. and General Counsel at Maxar Technologies; Kelsey McBarron, staff attorney at Fish & Richardson; Ryan Noble, counsel at OneWeb; Jessica Tok, Strategic Communications Analyst at U.S. Strategic Command; and Carlos Nalda,

Managing Principal at LMI. The panels advice for law students and young professionals ranged from introducing yourself to people with jobs that inspired you, to developing early career expertise in a field of law useful to general business, and then using that to find a job in the space industry.

Rule of Law in Space

Next was a panel discussion regarding the Rule of Law in Space, moderated by Joanne Gabrynowicz, Director of IISL and Prof. Emerita at the University of Mississippi School of Law. She was joined by panelists Hdeel Abdelhady, Professorial Lecturer of Islamic Law at George Washington University Law School; James Feinerman, Professor of Asian Legal Studies at Georgetown University; and Kai-Uwe Schrogl, President of the IISL. The panelists discussed comparative law as it regarded the rights and obligations of states and private parties, including the basis of sovereignty and property rights.

International Partnerships

The final panel of the evening covered international partnerships for space exploration. It was moderated by Tom McMurry, Deputy General Counsel at NASA, who was joined by Frank Riemann, Legal Officer in the Legal Services Department at the European Space Agency; Masami Onada, Director of the Washington, D.C. Office for JAXA, the Japanese space agency; and Robin J. Frank, Special Assistant to the General Counsel for International Law at NASA. The members of these diverse space agencies shared their ongoing perspective on the continued success of international cooperation in space exploration missions to this day.

The Symposium was followed by an invitation from the American Society of International Law to their annual Holiday Open House at their headquarters, the Tiller House, outside of DuPont Circle.