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Editorial - Institute of Aeospace Law

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INSTITUTE OF AEROSPACE LAW

With this editorial, the *Institute of Aerospace Law* at the School of Law, Southern Methodist University, begins a service designed to keep those interested in the rapidly developing field of aerospace law abreast of development and operations at the *Institute*.

The *Institute* was created by the Faculty of Law in late spring of 1967 and began teaching on an experimental basis with the fall semester, 1967. Two students were admitted to the full program; one received his LL.M. degree in May, 1968 and is now Assistant Professor of Law and Assistant Dean at Drake University School of Law. Six Masters candidates were admitted for 1968-69. Several applications have already been accepted for 1969-70.

Students have engaged in a three-part program which includes course work, research, and a research/writing relationship with the *Journal of Air Law and Commerce*, published at the Law School. This year, participants are required to take six hours of Air Law, two hours of Air Labor Relations Law, two hours of *Journal of Air Law and Commerce* Seminar, and two hours of Legal Aspects of Outer Space Activities. Additional hours are met through one of several recommended but not required courses. Next year, it is probable that Air Law will be reduced to four hours and a required course in the Economics of the Transportation Industry will be added. This will be taught by Professor Paul Zook of the Business Economics Department who has just returned from two years of service in helping to organize the Transport Department of Nigeria.

Staff for these first two years has included Professor Howard J. Taubensfeld (Director; Outer Space Activities), Professor Charles Morris (Air Labor Law), Professor Paul Larsen (Air Law), and Dr. Rita F. Taubensfeld, Research Associate in Law and Economics. Professor Larsen is leaving S.M.U. at the end of this academic year.

In addition to the teaching program, the *Institute* has been engaged in numerous other activities. It has participated in two well received symposia presented by the *Journal of Air Law and Commerce*, one on the Warsaw Convention (Summer, 1967) and one on Air Safety (Spring, 1968). A third in the series is scheduled for March, 1969, on Air Transport Labor Relations and is being guided by Professor Morris. The *Journal* expects that a major symposium of this type will be held annually and that, in addition, smaller meetings aimed at rather narrower targets will be held as well. Suggestions are invited.

The *Institute*, its staff, and students also work closely with the *Journal of Air Law and Commerce*. That *Journal* has been building its circulation rapidly and remains the place for publication of authoritative writing on all aspects of air and space activities in the English-speaking world.

The *Institute* has also made several applications for grants and contracts to permit pertinent research. While the effects of the Viet-Nam conflict have drastically cut the flow of Government research funds, some progress can be reported. The National Science Foundation, for example, has just

made a grant of \$69,600 for the creation of a Task Group on the Legal Aspects of Weather Modification under the aegis of the *Institute*. This fifteen-month study is under the direction of Professor Howard Taubenfeld with Dr. Rita Taubenfeld as a major participant. Graduate students in the *Institute* will provide research assistance as well. Plans for other projects, including a major study concerning the problems caused by regional airports in urban complexes, are under way. In the airport project, we will join forces with S.M.U.'s newly created *Institute for Urban Affairs*, directed by Dr. Sydney Reagan.

Another development of note has been the creation of a local Advisory Council to aid in planning the work of the *Institute*. Members are Eugene Jericho, Esq. (attorney), Jay Jackson, Esq. (Braniff), Ray Hutcheson, Esq. (attorney), Kenneth Dippel, Esq. (City Attorney), Mr. Kenneth P. Tubbs (Chamber of Commerce), Richard L. Thomas, Esq. (LTV). All are prominent in the fields of air law, air transportation development, or aerospace activities in the Dallas-extended area. Their willingness to serve has strengthened the *Institute's* program.

The *Institute* welcomes comments and inquiries. Please let us know if there is anyone you believe would like to be placed on our mailing list. Please address correspondence to:

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