



## Air & Space Law Symposium launches Thursday

By **LYLE MORAN**, The Daily Transcript  
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The second annual Air & Space Law Symposium in San Diego will examine the military's civil pivot and the future of space commerce.

Planned panel discussions will cover small drones as well as large unmanned aircraft systems. The event, sponsored by the Air Law Institute in San Diego and hosted by the California Western School of Law, will open Thursday with a reception dinner and continue through Saturday.

David Cain, communication officer for the Air Law Institute, said last year's symposium was successful and he expects more than 200 attendees this time around.

"If there is a big player in air and space law, they are coming," said Cain, an attorney at **Ballard Spahr LLP**. "We are very excited."

A series of panel discussions will be held Friday morning with an examination of the tension between the operation and regulations of small drones.

That conversation will be followed by a question-and-answer session on the first leap forward for commercial drones, and then a panel on large unmanned aircraft systems and the future of air transport.

Cain said he looks forward to the interplay between recent entrants into the unmanned aircraft industry who would like to see the Federal Aviation Administration move faster to loosen restrictions and established companies that think the FAA is doing a great job.

"For all those newcomers, they have to recognize there is a big, established system into which they are trying to exert economic opportunism," Cain said. "If an amateur in aviation says you need to move faster and giant, stable aviation companies are not saying that, that should say something."

A Friday afternoon panel will feature in-house counsel for air and space companies, including Austin Blue of **Spectrum Aeronautical**, Todd Emerson of **SkyWest Airlines**, Sagi Kfir of **Deep Space Industries** and Wendy Walter of **Airbus Group**.

There will also be a discussion about intellectual property in air and space.

Retired Rear Adm. Thomas J. Cassidy Jr. will be honored at a reception Friday evening at the San Diego Air and Space Museum in Balboa Park.

Cassidy is the former president of **General Atomics Aeronautical Systems'** Aircraft Systems business unit and remains on the board of directors.

The events will conclude Saturday with the Air Law Institute golf tournament at Salt Creek Golf Club in Chula Vista.