UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LAW CENTER

SPACE LAW SOCIETY HOUSTON

The University of Houston Law Center and
Space Law Society Student Organization
present

HOT TOPICS IN SPACE LAW

Wednesday, November 4, 2026

3:00-5:00 PM Central Time

via Zoom

Approved for 2.0 hours of Texas MCLE credit

UNIVERSITY OF **HOUSTON** LAW CENTER

Agenda

3:00-3:05PM — **Opening Remarks**

Leonard M. Baynes
Dean, Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen Distinguished Chair
Professor of Law
University of Houston Law Center

3:05-3:30PM — **Earth-Oriented Space Services**

Tracey Davies
Chief Legal Officer, General Counsel, Corporate Secretary
Axiom Space

Christopher Mirasola
Assistant Professor of Law
University of Houston Law Center

3:30-3:55PM — **Governance of Space Resources**

Rebecca Bresnik
Adjunct Professor of Space Law
University of Houston Law Center
Assistant General Counsel
International and Space Law, Office of the General Counsel
NASA — National Aeronautics and Space Administration

3:55-4:20PM — **Military Activities in Space**

Christopher Mirasola
Assistant Professor of Law
University of Houston Law Center

4:20-5:00PM — **Roundtable Discussion with Dean Baynes and All Panelists**

LEONARD M. BAYNES

Dean, Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen Distinguished Chair
Professor of Law
University of Houston Law Center

Leonard M. Baynes, currently the longest serving law dean in Texas, made history in 2014 with his appointment as the first dean of African descent at the University of Houston Law Center.

During his deanship, the UH Law Center's admission credentials have steadily increased — the median LSAT score climbed from 159 to 165 and the median GPA grew from 3.47 to 3.79. Under Dean Baynes's leadership, the Law Center completed the $93 million world-class John M. O'Quinn Law Building in 2022 and expanded pathways to legal education through innovative programs including the 3-3 Program with UH Honors College, the UH Law Express Program, and the award-winning Pre-Law Pipeline Programs.

A prolific scholar, Dean Baynes co-authored the casebook "Telecommunications Law: Convergence and Competition" and has published over 25 law review articles and book chapters. He has received numerous honors, including recognition by *National Jurist* as one of the most influential people in legal education, the Paul Robeson Award from his alma mater Columbia Law School, and the Clyde Ferguson Award from the Association of American Law Schools.

REBECCA BRESNIK

Adjunct Professor of Space Law
University of Houston Law Center
Assistant General Counsel
International and Space Law, Office of the General Counsel
NASA — National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Rebecca Bresnik is an adjunct professor of space law at the University of Houston Law Center. She currently serves as Associate General Counsel for NASA's International and Space Law Practice Group, where she combines a substantive legal practice with executive leadership responsibilities. She leads a team of attorneys addressing complex matters involving international cooperation, space treaties and agreements, commercial partnerships, export controls, and international procurements, while continuing to provide direct legal counsel on significant space law and international matters.

As a Senior Executive Service (SES) attorney, Rebecca sets strategic direction for the practice group, oversees complex and high-visibility legal matters, advises senior Agency leadership, and mentors a geographically distributed team of attorneys supporting NASA missions and programs.

Rebecca's practice also draws on more than two decades of broad legal experience at NASA's Johnson Space Center, including serving as a senior procurement and ethics attorney and advising on procurement and acquisition law, fiscal law, general law, employment law, commercial transactions, litigation, and other complex Agency matters. For two decades, she also served as a lead legal advisor on export control matters, providing counsel on the legal and regulatory issues associated with NASA's international activities and partnerships. This breadth of experience has given her a practical understanding of how legal, operational, acquisition, fiscal, workforce, and international considerations come together in the execution of complex aerospace missions and in addressing the evolving challenges of operating in an increasingly complex space environment.

TRACEY B. DAVIES

Chief Legal Officer, General Counsel, Corporate Secretary
Axiom Space

Tracey B. Davies serves as Chief Legal Officer, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary at Axiom Space.

Davies brings more than 25 years of experience in private practice, government and private industry. Her extensive expertise includes leading teams through complex disputes and government investigations spanning jurisdictions and international boundaries, addressing issues ranging from mergers and acquisitions to antitrust, intellectual property and more.

Most recently, Davies held the senior vice president, associate general counsel position at Edwards Lifesciences. Prior to that she held a government service role as chief strategic initiatives and chief intellectual property officer at the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) for the State of Texas. Her career experience also includes serving as a partner at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, LLP, and a partner and chair of the global technology, life sciences and intellectual property practices at Vinson & Elkins LLP. Davies has also helped lead multi-billion-dollar strategic deals and collaborations and resolve multi-billion-dollar disputes.

Davies holds a master's degree in public health and a juris doctor from the University of Minnesota. She earned undergraduate degrees from the Catholic University in Leuven, Belgium, and the University of Tennessee.

CHRISTOPHER MIRASOLA

Assistant Professor of Law
University of Houston Law Center

Chris Mirasola's work focuses on emerging questions of national security and international law. His scholarship situates legal doctrines in a historical context and is informed by time working as a Department of Defense attorney and in the People's Republic of China (PRC). Chris's projects have been published, or are forthcoming, in the *University of Southern California Law Review, University of Pennsylvania Law Review Online,* the *Harvard National Security Journal*, and the *Harvard Negotiation Law Review*, among other publications. He has also written on national security law, international law, and PRC law topics for *Lawfare*. Chris frequently advises on national security law and international law matters, with a particular recent focus on the law regarding military deployments within the United States.

Before joining the University of Houston law faculty, Chris was a Climenko fellow at Harvard Law School. Prior to that, he was an attorney-advisor at the Department of Defense. There, his portfolio included domestic military deployments, issues concerning the National Guard, and the government response to the COVID-19 pandemic and withdrawal from Afghanistan, among other matters. Before graduate school, Chris worked in China designing online teaching modules for criminal defense attorneys and teaching English.

For more information about the Initiative on Space Law at the University of Houston Law Center:

law.uh.edu/SpaceLaw

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