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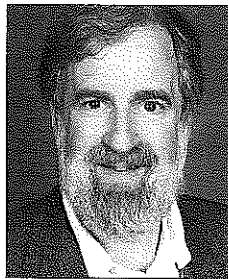
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## Chair's Message

In 1962, addressing a White House dinner for Nobel Prize winners from the Western Hemisphere, President Kennedy famously said, "I think this is the most extraordinary collection of talent, of human knowledge, that has ever been gathered at the White House—with the possible exception of when Thomas Jefferson dined alone." I was reminded of that quote as I looked around at the Forum's annual conference in New York City in late September. The speakers and the audience represented perhaps the most extraordinary collection of aviation and space talent and knowledge ever assembled in one place. If you were there, I'm sure you would agree.

Beginning with the keynote address from JetBlue CEO David Barger, and concluding with a panel of the general counsels of Airbus, Delta Air Lines, GE Capital Aviation Services, and UPS, conference attendees heard insights into every aspect of our industry. In all, our speakers included 11 general counsels, three CEOs, four government representatives, and many distinguished practitioners. The speakers mirrored and complemented the talent and knowledge in the audience (including a former secretary of transportation), whose questions and comments enhanced the dialogue. Of course, attendees also had opportunities to network with their colleagues and enjoy a roof-top reception with spectacular views of the New York harbor and Lady Liberty.

Several speakers at the conference referred to the multidimensional challenges of legal issues in air and space law. Our industry is indeed complex, and issues cannot be considered in isolation. No matter what your specialty may be, being able to see how your issues fit into the "big picture" of aviation or space is of enormous benefit. Having a broader understanding of how the industry works is crucial to the quality of the advice you give your clients. Our mission at the Forum is to provide that broader perspective, whether through our conferences, publications, or mentoring programs.

With that mission in mind, our conferences continue to provide opportunities to network and be informed about the latest legal developments in our industry. On December 5, in conjunction with the ABA Business Law Section's Aviation Finance subcommittee, we held our annual Aviation Finance conference in New York City. Then, on February 21, 2014, we will meet in Washington, D.C., for the annual Legislative and Regulatory Update Conference. I urge you to put that date on your calendar and join us for what will be a very informative program.

So, please enjoy this latest issue of *The Air & Space Lawyer*. The remarkable breadth and quality of the articles are the result of the same type of effort and thinking that goes into planning our conferences. Then, follow up by registering for one of our meetings. You will not be disappointed.

Robert S. Span