

# MICHELLE L.D. HANLON



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## PROFILE

- Space lawyer with deep knowledge of both the international treaty regime and United States domestic laws and regulations governing space activities.
- Annually deliver multiple presentations to the United Nations on all aspects of space governance including the sustainable exploration and use of space and its resources.
- Regularly invited by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to provide advice and guidance regarding, among other things, lunar activities, the ethics of space exploration, planetary protection and the protection of cultural heritage in outer space.
- Skilled and creative motivator experienced at building diverse and multidisciplinary teams to address complex issues and realize substantive landmark achievements.
- Strategic, decisive thinker with extensive experience in corporate and contract law.
- Entrepreneurial, results-driven executive adept at achieving goals with limited budgets.
- Committed mentor who has organized multiple collaborative opportunities for students and young professionals to engage in air and space law.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR AIR AND SPACE LAW**  
**University of Mississippi**

**July 2018 - Present**

Reorganized, updated, expanded and continue to manage the only program in the world that offers a combined air and space law postgraduate law degree at a school accredited by the American Bar Association.

- Plan and execute air and space law curriculum, teach and mentor students in at least three classes each semester including Problem Solving in Space Law, Aerospace Business and Law, United States Domestic Space Law, Aerospace Technology, Security, Privacy and Law, AstraPolitica, which looks at the geopolitics of space, Astrolaw and Ethics, Private International Air Law and Drone Law and Policy.
- Research includes governance of new space activities including space resource extraction and utilization, the characterization and treatment of dual use satellites in times of conflict, the identification and protection of historic artifacts and sites located on celestial bodies besides Earth, orbital debris remediation, space solar power and lunar governance.
- As Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Space Law* and the *Journal of Drone Law & Policy*, supervise a diverse staff of students and professionals to select, edit and publish influential articles addressing all aspects of space law and drone law.
- Created a cross-functional Task Force on Inclusion, Equity and Diversity in Aerospace which supports a number of dedicated programs focused on improving diversity in all aspects of the aerospace industry and has collaborated with, among others, the Department of Commerce Minority Business Development Agency, the National Space Society and Gaaays in Spaaace.
- Established the first scholarship fund committed to increasing indigenous representation and amplifying the indigenous voice in air and space law.

**CO-FOUNDER, PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
For All Moonkind, Inc.**

**June 2017 - Present**

Co-founder of 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation which is the only organization in the world dedicated to preserving human heritage in outer space starting with the Apollo, Luna and other lunar landing sites. The organization also seeks to promote education, exploration and development and contribute to the debate on equally pressing issues of property and resource extraction. Work is conducted primarily through a Leadership Board and three Advisory Councils: Legal, Heritage and Science, Industry and Education.

- Research and advocacy resulted in the consideration of cultural heritage in outer space in influential international documents and fora including the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the United States' Artemis Accords.
- Instrumental in the drafting, negotiation and passage into law of the One Small Step Act in the United States, the first national legislation in the world to recognize human heritage in space.
- Oversee all operational matters including the international strategic advocacy plan focused on international and national governing bodies to culminate in an international convention to protect human cultural heritage in outer space.
- Assembled, guide and coordinate a team of more than 100 multi-disciplinary volunteers representing nations from every continent allocating and synthesizing research in complex issues of space and heritage law.
- Handled the successful applications for the organization to achieve Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council and be recognized as a Permanent Observer to the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.
- Recognized as a "Top Ten Innovator" in Space by *Fast Company Magazine* for two years in a row (2018 and 2019).
- Designed and built the world's first digital Registry of all the human material that can be found on the Moon.
- Responsible for formation, 501(c)(3) tax-exemption, organization, and public launch.

**ATTORNEY AT LAW**

**October 1997 – Present**

A general legal practice focused on the negotiation and completion of commercial transactions. Practice is implemented both as an individual consultant and as part of the ABH Space Law firm.

- Provide advice and legal counsel covering all aspects of aviation and space law and policy including, in particular, the regulation of drones, the collection and sale of remotely sensed data and orbital debris remediation.
- Provide advice and counsel in connection with planning, facilitation, negotiating and executing complex cross-border mergers, acquisitions, loans and other financings.
- Investigated executive employment discrimination matters and related issues in corporate legal ethics.

- Researched and drafted complaints and other pleadings, settlement agreements and other legal documents and memoranda in relation to litigation matters ranging from tort liability to commercial disputes.
- Worked closely with entrepreneurs, particularly at the start-up level, to commercialize their ideas and products, organize business operations, obtain funding including venture capital investment, build value, and develop and leverage acquisition opportunities.

**ASSOCIATE – MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS  
Faegre & Benson**

**November 1995 – September 1997**

Broad corporate practice advising clients on a variety of topics including, public and private mergers and acquisitions, tender and exchange offers, asset acquisitions and dispositions, acquisition financing, reorganizations, joint ventures, technology transfer and licensing and asset-sharing arrangements. Active in general corporate counseling for private holding and public companies encompassing issues from executive termination to structured financings.

**ASSOCIATE – CORPORATE  
Shearman & Sterling**

**August 1992 – October 1995**

Represented issuers, lenders, borrowers, sovereign borrowers and project finance participants in securities offerings, lending, leasing, restructurings and other transactions. Responsible for managing, negotiating, documenting, closing and structuring, multibank credit facility agreements, receivable securitization facilities, medium term note programs, unregistered offerings for foreign sovereigns and domestic issuers, and project finance transactions with secured loans and private placements. Member of the legal team which restructured \$40 billion of the sovereign debt of the Republic of Brazil.

**SUMMER ASSOCIATE AND LEGAL ASSISTANT - CORPORATE  
Winthrop, Stimson, Putnam & Roberts**

**1989 – 1991**

**EDUCATION**

**Master of Laws, Air and Space Law**, McGill University, Montreal, Canada

**Juris Doctor**, Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, District of Columbia

*Magna Cum Laude*

Order of the Coif, Dean's List

Senior Editor, LAW AND POLICY IN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

Am Jur Award, Conflicts of Law

**Bachelor of Arts, Political Science**, Yale College, New Haven, Connecticut

## **ADVISORY POSITIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS**

### **BAR MEMBERSHIPS:**

State of New York  
State of Minnesota

### **WORKING GROUPS:**

United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Ongoing participation as a Permanent Observer.

Developing An Ethical Framework for Human Research in Private Spaceflight, Report forthcoming.

SATCON2: Policy Working Group, Report delivered November 2021

Federal Aviation Administration SpARC on Part 440.

Federal Aviation Administration SpARC on Part 460

### **OTHER:**

Member, International Institute of Space Law

Member, International Astronautical Federation

Corresponding Member, International Academy of Astronautics

Member of the Board of Directors, National Space Society

Advisor, Alliance for Collaboration in the Exploration of Space

Advisor, Arch Mission Foundation

Advisor, Beyond Earth Institute

Advisor, Beyond the Earth Foundation

Advisor, Geocento

Advisor, Hague Institute Off-World Approach

Honored by National Space Society as Space Activist of the Year 2023

## **SELECT PUBLICATIONS AND LECTURES**

### **SELECT BOOK CHAPTERS:**

*If You Mine it Do You Own it*, in SPACE MINING 101 (Phillip Metzger, ed., forthcoming).

*Ethical Responsibilities*, in SPACE MINING 101 (Phillip Metzger, ed., forthcoming).

*The Moon Agreement: A Swan Song*, in DECODING INTERNATIONAL SPACE LAW IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY (Sandeep Bhat, ed., Oxford University Press, forthcoming).

*Legal and Policy Implications of the Growth of Commercial Space*, in RISE OF COMMERCIAL SPACE (Brian Odom, ed., forthcoming)

*Planetary Protection*, in OUTER SPACE LAW: LEGAL POLICY AND PRACTICE, SECOND EDITION (2022).

### **SELECT JOURNAL ARTICLES**

*Legal, Policy, Regulatory, and Licensing Considerations for Space Solar Power*, GLOBAL SPACE CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE (May 2023) with George Dietrich, Howard Bloom and Peter Schubert.

*Exploring Space in the Spirit of Kinship*, 2 SPACE EDUCATION & STRATEGIC APPLICATIONS 1, 33 (2020/2021)

*Due Regard for Commercial Space Must Start with Historic Preservation* 9 GLOBAL BUS. L. REV. 1, 130 (2021).

*Adapting the ISS Code of Conduct to Form the Foundation of Astrolaw*, 21 SAN DIEGO INT'L L. J. 105 (2019).

*Of Robots and Law in Space*, ROBOTICS L. J. (Sep. 2020).

*The Legal Imperative to Mitigate the Plume Effect: An "Aggravation and Frustration" that Imperils our History and our Future*, 43 J. SPACE L. 309 (2019) with Bailey Cunningham.

*Here a Spaceport, There a Spaceport, Everywhere a Spaceport?*, 42 J. SPACE L.38 (2018/19).

*As the Grapefruit Turns Sixty, It's Time to Get Serious About Clean Up in Outer Space*, 83 J. AIR L. & COM. 45 (2018), with Humaid Alshamsi and Roy Balleste.

*Spreading Humanity with Civility – Developing Norms for Private Behaviour in Space*, REINVENTING SPACE CONFERENCE, BIS-RS-2017-42 (October 2017), with Humaid Alshamsi and Roy Balleste.

*The Middle Kingdom's Shrewd Strategy to Become the Center of the Universe*, ANNALS OF AIR & SPACE L.: VOL. XLI (2018).

*Sexual Hostility a Mile High*, 28 HASTINGS WOMEN'S L.J. 181 (Spring 2017).

*Self-Driving Cars: Autonomous Technology that Needs a Designated Duty Passenger*, 22 BARRY L. REV. (2017).

#### **ARTICLES & LECTURES**

Multiple articles, lectures and presentations at conferences, conventions and universities, including the UNCOPUOS, Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Malmo University, and events sponsored by SXSW, the British Interplanetary Society, the Society for the History of Technology, the American Historical Society, Women in Aviation, the Canadian Space Commerce Association, the European Space Agency, the National Space Society and NASA, covering topics including the preservation of history and human heritage in outer space, space resource utilization, space governance, drone regulation, spaceport development, orbital debris mitigation, the creation of norms to regulate private and individual activities in space, space solar power, the ethics of space exploration and doing business in China.

#### **ADDITIONAL**

Michelle has been interviewed by, among others, NPR, the BBC, *The New York Times*, *Time Magazine*, *the Wall Street Journal*, *The Economist*, *the Washington Post* and *Bloomberg*. She has been featured on *Cheddar*, *The Morning Show*, *The Space Show*, *PBS Nova* and many others, and has been quoted by major news outlets around the globe.

The child of two U.S. diplomats, Michelle spent most of her youth overseas. Her mother, Barbara Yuan Slawecki is a naturalized U.S. citizen from Taiwan, and her father, Leon Slawecki is a first generation Polish American.