



Lisa Ellman Biography

Executive Director, Commercial Drone Alliance

A former high-level executive branch official, Lisa Ellman is a thought leader, lawyer and entrepreneur who excels at moving aviation innovation forward safely. Widely recognized as one of the “world’s foremost authorities on drones and law,” Ms. Ellman brings vast industry and government experience to the advanced aviation marketplace.

Ms. Ellman co-founded and leads the [Commercial Drone Alliance](#) (CDA), an independent non-profit organization led by key members of the commercial drone and broader advanced air mobility (AAM) industries. The CDA is the leading advocacy organization focused on safely moving the commercial drone and AAM industries forward. Under Ms. Ellman’s leadership, the CDA works in close collaboration with federal government stakeholders (including DOT, FAA, the White House, NASA, DOJ, DHS, DOD, Congress, and others) to safely enable innovation and propel the industry forward.

As a partner at the global law firm Hogan Lovells US LLP, Ms. Ellman chairs the firm’s Global UAS practice. She also assists clients as a member of the firm’s broader Transportation and Aviation Practice groups. In addition to enabling small uncrewed aircraft systems (UAS), Ms. Ellman focuses on enabling large UAS, AAM, and UAS security efforts.

Ms. Ellman works closely with regulators and policymakers to push policy boundaries forward safely. The CDA represents every vertical market sector—from public safety and security, to newsgathering and television production, to aerial photography and energy, to precision agriculture and insurance, to package delivery and real estate. Ms. Ellman has worked with major sports organizations, owners and operators of critical infrastructure facilities, educational institutions, and counter-drone companies on cutting-edge issues of drone security law and policy. As she helps organizations and companies overcome challenges and solve problems, Ms. Ellman has developed a unique understanding of the many challenges facing the UAS, AAM, and traditional crewed aviation industries.

Throughout her career, Ms. Ellman has worked to bridge government policymaking and business innovation. Ms. Ellman has held a variety of positions at top levels of the executive branch in the Obama-Biden White House and DOJ. For example, she led the DOJ’s effort to develop a UAS policy and represented the DOJ in the federal interagency process considering UAS-related policy issues.

In this role, Ms. Ellman’s experience includes recent testimony before the Senate Commerce Committee Hearing regarding “FAA Reauthorization: Integrating New Entrants in to the National Airspace System.” Ms. Ellman also has extensive advisory committee experience. Ms. Ellman was appointed to lead the Market Drivers Working Group for the FAA’s Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) Aviation Rulemaking Committee (ARC) to develop recommendations to safely enable BVLOS operations at scale. In addition, Ms. Ellman has represented CDA on the NASA Advisory Council Aeronautics Committee, the FAA Remote ID & Tracking ARC, the Drone Safety Team, and the National Academy of Sciences Aeronautics Roundtable on AAM.



In 2022, Ms. Ellman was named Most Innovative Practitioner in The Financial Times Innovative Lawyers North America awards. She is a highly sought-after thought leader and regularly appears on television to discuss new developments. Her opinions have been featured in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Fortune* and other publications. She was recognized in *Fortune's* "Most Powerful Women" series for her efforts to develop policy to govern drone use in the United States.

Ms. Ellman received her J.D. and Masters of Public Policy from the University of Chicago. She received her B.A. in History with High Honors from the University of Michigan.

Her work has been recognized by the following:

- Most Innovative Practitioner, The Financial Times Innovative Lawyers North America, 2022
- Women in Emerging Aviation Technologies Hall of Fame Award, Women and Drones, 2022
- Transportation: Aviation: Regulatory (USA - Nationwide), Chambers USA, 2020-2022
- Transportation MVP, Law360, 2019
- Technology Law Trailblazer, The National Law Journal, 2019
- Transport: Aviation and Air Travel - Litigation and Regulation, Leading Lawyer, Legal 500 US, 2017-2022