

Space Policy & Law

For questions, email:

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Someday soon, space colonies and deep space exploration will be a reality. There have been numerous discussions of large-scale facilities, and settlements, that in the long-term may even include terraforming a planet in order to make it more hospitable for humans to colonize. Yet, for space commerce to thrive we will need to develop Space Policy and Laws that are fair and equitable for the explorers as well as their sponsors. ASCEND participants will examine how the present and future aspects of Space Policy and Law may evolve in the years to come to enable a great expansion of human activity in outer space.

For example, it is inevitable that someday a baby will be born in a remote space colony or during a deep space mission in a space craft. Will that child be considered an international citizen with all of the applicable rights granted under the United Nations Children’s Bill of Rights? Or, will that child be considered a ward of the space colony and live under a set of interplanetary laws of governance created by and enforced by a public or private space company? We are at a point in time when the human rights of any person that wants to embark into outer space may be dictated by the country or organization that is funding the space enterprise. This may also include the families who want to participate in being members of a space colony.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

A Legal Framework and Code Applicable to Sustained Facilities in Space That Can Be Universally Adopted

- » Basis for Sovereignty Assignment
- » Enforcement Mechanisms
- » Governance of Outposts/Settlements
- » Historical Precedents and Analogs
- » Individual and Family Bill of Rights for Outer Space
- » Property Rights
- » Safety Laws and Criminal Statutes
- » Venues for Prompt Conflict Resolution (In-Space and International)

Formulating and Maintaining Long-term National and International Strategies

- » A Sustained Rationale and Vision for Exploration
- » Export Control Reform
- » Incentive Programs
- » Insurance and Liability

International Cooperation and Relations

- » International Finance, Licensing and Regulation
- » Regulations for a Safe and Sustainable Space Operations Environment (includes orbital debris limitations and mitigation)
- » Rescue infrastructure and procedures
- » Spectrum Allocation Reform
- » System Compatibility Standards