

Transportation and Air & Space Law Section Report 2021-2022

The Section continues to serve as a resource-in-waiting for MBA Council and membership on transportation issues.

As Provincial Chair, I also sit on the National Executive of the Canadian Bar Association Air and Space Law Section and am an active contributor to its activities. Only British Columbia has an active Provincial section.

During the Pandemic the National Air & Space Law Section's monthly teleconference calls were interrupted, but have been reinstituted recently, with a variety of Section projects re-started. We are waiting anxiously to see if the tradition of meeting annually with Justice/Transport Canada/regulatory agency legal counsel as part of our annual in-person executive meeting can be reinstituted despite COVID and CBA budget cuts.

The National Section provides submissions on relevant Federal Legislation and issues, hosts webinars, provides newsletters to members, administers an annual essay contest, holds outreaches for practitioners in Toronto and Montreal, and populates materials for the CBA Section Web pages. Those materials are available to MBA members who have indicated interest in the Section.

Nationally, the Section corroborates with ABA Forum on Air & Space Law on its conferences that are held in conjunction with the McGill Institute of Air and Space Law, usually once every 3 years, with the last being in Montreal in September 2017. The future of in-person conference scheduling remains to be seen.

Efforts to promote local Section activities in Manitoba have met with little interest, but if any Air-heads or Space-cadets out there are willing to support greater involvement, please let me know.

A joint meeting with the Real Property Section on the Airport Vicinity Development Plan awaits finalization of the Plan amendments following Provincial intervention into the process intended to protect the 24/7 operations at Winnipeg's James A. Richardson International Airport from noise complaints and curfews.

Submitted by,
Joe Barnsley, Chair, MBA Transportation Law Section