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University of Mississippi

International space law experts to converge in Oxford Sept. 19

OXFORD, Miss. – Remote sensing and space law experts from across the globe will gather in Oxford Sept. 19 for a one-day symposium.

The event will focus on space law and intellectual property which are issues of immediate relevance in this current age of digital information, said Joanne Irene Gabrynowicz, UM research professor of law and director of the National Remote Sensing and Space Law Center at Ole Miss.

“In the industrial age, wealth was based on physical property, but now, intellectual property is the way that people make money in this information age,” she said. “Space technology is on the leading edge of that issue, so the two issues naturally tie together.”

The symposium will include presentations by participants from academic and private institutions, including the University of Maine, Louisiana State University, Thomas Jefferson School of Law, NASA headquarters, Alcatel Alenia Space, the Nigerian National Space Research and Development Agency and the Brazilian Society of Space Law. University of Mississippi law professors also will play a crucial role in the symposium, with four professors presenting papers based on their areas of expertise.

The symposium is free and will begin at 8:30 a.m., Sept. 19, in Moot Court Room I on the third floor of the Lamar Law Center. A live web cast of the symposium will be available online at www.spacelaw.olemiss.edu, and CLE credits may be available for symposium participants.

School of Law Dean Samuel M. Davis said the symposium and the center attract international attention for the university and its faculty.

“The center’s focus and its impact are international in scope. This symposium and others planned for the future will attract scholars and professionals in the space and remote sensing areas from all over the world,” he said. “Quite literally, the center and its activities are putting the university and law school on the global map.”

The top priority of the National Remote Sensing and Space Law center is conducting a systematic survey of commercial geospatial constituency groups to identify and prioritize those domestic and international legal issues of greatest concern to the industry. Though there are several European centers dealing with remote sensing issues, the UM center is the first of its kind in the United States, and it is available to serve federal, state and local government in a non-advocacy capacity to conduct narrowly tailored legal research and to answer legal questions of concern to the geospatial industry.

Gabrynowicz, a graduate of the Cardozo School of Law at Yeshiva University, joined the UM faculty in 2001 as the center's inaugural director and research professor of law. She received the 2001 Women in Aerospace Outstanding International Award for her work and contributions to the broad spectrum of aerospace issues.

For more information or to register for the symposium, contact the center at spacelaw@olemiss.edu or 915-6857. For more information on the center, visit www.spacelaw.olemiss.edu. For more information on the School of Law, visit www.law.olemiss.edu.

(jennifer farish)

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