



Sean McGowan

Partner

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PRACTICES

- Transportation and International Commerce

EDUCATION

- Catholic University of America
Columbus School of Law, J.D.,
1999
- The George Washington
University, B.A., Political Science,
1991

ADMISSIONS

- District of Columbia
- Virginia

AFFILIATIONS

- Aero Club of Washington
- American Association of
Exporters and Importers
- American Bar Association
- Association for Unmanned
Vehicle Systems International
- Society for International Affairs
- Virginia State Bar

EMPLOYMENT

- Thompson Coburn LLP Partner,
2008-Present Associate, 2003-
2007
- Dombroff & Gilmore, P.C.
Associate, 2000-2003
- Rodriguez O'Donnell Fuerst
Gonzalez & Williams Associate,
1999-2000 Law Clerk, 1998-1999

Sean helps his clients navigate the complex web of federal regulations that affect their transportation and export operations.

Sean has over 20 years of transportation regulatory experience in the aviation, trucking, rail and maritime industries. During this time he has handled numerous compliance issues regarding: general, commercial and unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) matters; establishment of public charters; hazardous materials (HAZMAT) classifications; responses to HAZMAT violations; obtaining U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) registration and motor carrier (MC) operating authority; responding to USDOT safety audits; drafting and reviewing transportation contracts; placing rail systems into the rails-to-trails system; and general inquiries regarding maritime regulatory and Shipping Act violations. Sean practices before a variety of federal regulatory agencies, including the USDOT; the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA); the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA); the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA); the Surface Transportation Board (STB); and the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC). He is also co-chair of the firm's UAS (Drone) Practice Group and co-host of the Firm's UAS podcast, Three Lawyers and a Drone.

Sean also counsels clients on U.S. federal regulatory compliance issues associated with the export of controlled products, technology and related services. Sean routinely assists clients in: determining the correct export classifications for items controlled under the Commerce Department's Export Administration Regulations (EAR) Export Control Classification Number (ECCN) list or the State Department's International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) United States Munitions List (USML); obtaining export licenses; drafting and implementing export compliance manuals and procedures; reviewing transactions for compliance with U.S. sanctions; and representing clients in the initial and full voluntary disclosure (VD) or voluntary self-disclosure (VSD) process. Sean practices before a variety of federal regulatory agencies, including the Department of Commerce (DOC) Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS); the Department of State (DOS) Directorate of Defense Trade Controls (DDTC); the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC); the Department of Homeland Security (DHS); and Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

Presentations

- "It's A Bird? It's A Plane? It's A Drone!: Unmanned Aircraft on Campus"; NACUA virtual seminar November 2015
- "International Trade Law: Export Control Reform: What Does It Mean or Not Mean For Your ITAR and/or EAR Exports"; September 2013

Publications

- "FAA announces remote identification proposed rule for drones"; December 2019
- "Introduction to U.S. Trade Compliance for Legal, Customs and Compliance Personnel"; March 2019
- "Countries Subject to Various Restrictions by the U.S., EU and UN"; March 2019
- "FAA announces new drone rule requiring UAS registration number"; February 2019
- "Update on academic use of drones"; May, 2016
- "Micro UAS Committee charts bold new course for FAA treatment of smaller unmanned aircraft"; April, 2016
- "Shippers, are you ready for SOLAS' verified container weight mandate?"; April 2016
- "Anti-Drone Technologies: The Regulation Challenge"; *The Cipher Brief* March 2016
- "Drone Technology: The Regulatory Outlook"; *The Cipher Brief* September 2015
- "Drones and sports: A brief overview"; September 2015
- "And on that farm he had a drone: UAS deployment in precision agriculture"; September 3, 2015
- "Small Business Committee holds hearing to explore commercial drone operations"; July 23, 2015
- "FAA grants exemption for large crop-spraying unmanned aircraft"; May 2015
- "Section 333 at 200 days: Where are we now?"; April 2015
- "Amazon Prime Air closer to takeoff: FAA grants Internet giant's request for drone 'exemption' and experimental certificate"; March 2015
- "Small UAS comment countdown begins: FAA publishes notice of proposed rulemaking"; February 2015
- "Final approach: FAA announces long-awaited small UAS notice of proposed rulemaking"; February 2015
- "Florida drone bill a reminder to UAS operators: Know all the rules before you fly"; February 2015
- "FAA settles trail-blazing drone case for \$1,100"; January 2015

- "UAS hearing yields details on systems research and development, but no timeline for small UAS rule"; January 2015
- "More boots on the ground: FAA provides law enforcement guidance for suspected unauthorized UAS operation"; January 2015
- "'Tis the season: FAA launches safety campaign for unmanned aircraft"; December 2014
- "Unmanned Aircraft Systems Are 'Aircraft' Once Again" November 18, 2014
- "Shipping hazmats by air? Follow the rules or pay the price: FAA imposes substantial penalties for hazardous materials violations" October 3, 2014
- "Drones and Commercial Real Estate - The Wait Continues" September 23, 2014
- "International Trade Compliance: 6 Basic Products Questions A Company Should Answer," *Corporate Compliance Insights* October 2011

Co-Author: "Trade Compliance Handbook"