

HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE 2026-1 EDITION OF DRONE LAW

Recent developments included in this 2026-1 edition include:

- This latest edition of Drone Law features two new chapters.
 - Chapter 15, “Law Enforcement and Other Public Safety Organizations,” covers everything from the initial implementation of a drone program and operational options, to obtaining authorization for emergency flights and guidance on handling drone incidents.
 - Chapter 18, “National Security Concerns” explores rapidly evolving national security issues including those set forth in various National Defense Authorization Acts and the recent December 2025 FCC order banning drone systems and critical components produced in foreign countries. Over the coming years, we expect to see significant development in this area.
- DJI’s arbitration provision in the DJI Fly app user agreement was determined to be unenforceable against a user who was a minor at the time they assented to the terms of service in a Texas case. See Chapter 37, Contracts—Formation and Terms of Service
- A federal court in California held that a 1983 plaintiff was unable to show an established right to freedom from drone surveillance in a case involving law enforcement in Sonoma County. See Chapter 41, Law Enforcement Searches and the Fourth Amendment.
- Educational or research purposes as they relate to drones now includes elementary and secondary schools. See Chapter 7, Educational Operations
- The FAA has created the Sporting Event Automated Monitoring System (SEAMS) which provides real time, automated information regarding Stadium Temporary Flight Restrictions. See Chapter 10, Airspace & General UAS Operations