

Unmanned Vehicle Systems



PERKINS COIE HAS over 100 years of extensive aerospace experience, having incorporated Boeing in 1916. We continue to provide strategic, mission-critical guidance and serve the legal needs of companies that work with unmanned vehicle systems (UVS).

From aircraft to cars to robots, unmanned systems with varying degrees of autonomy are becoming an ever-present feature of modern life. With unmatched experience in handling complex matters and business issues, Perkins Coie's multidisciplinary team of attorneys helps advise companies designing, building and using unmanned aircraft and other unmanned vehicles.

NATIONALLY RANKED AREAS OF EMPHASIS



AVIATION & PRODUCT LIABILITY We have handled Boeing's aviation liability work worldwide since 1973, representing them in accidents involving commercial airliners, military and civilian helicopters, and fighter jets. As the aviation industry has grown to include satellites and unmanned aerial vehicles, we have continued to partner with clients such as Honeywell, Turbomeca and BAE Systems on their new ventures, providing them with counseling on issues ranging from problems with suppliers to product liability, as well as defending them in high-profile, high-stakes matters.

- *Band 1 in Aviation Litigation, Chambers USA (2009–2015)*
- *Recommended for Product Liability and Mass Tort Defense: Aerospace/Aviation, The Legal 500 (2009–2013)*



EMERGING COMPANIES Unlike many parts of the economy, the UVS market has many small companies rather than a few large, dominant ones. From incorporation to exit, we provide practical, strategic advice to help clients overcome difficult challenges throughout various stages of company growth. We have handled thousands of venture financings over the years and have significant experience dealing with a variety of private debt and equity financing transactions for emerging company clients.

- *Venture Capital "Law Firm of the Year" for two consecutive years, U.S. News – Best Lawyers® (2011–2012, 2012–2013)*



INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY Protecting intellectual property rights is a priority, whether by obtaining or enforcing a patent, protecting trade secrets, enforcing trademark rights or licensing the use of a product. We have particular experience in aerospace, computer science, and electronics. Several of our lawyers have previous experience as Patent Examiners for the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in the fields of aeronautics and astronautics; others have worked as engineers in the aerospace and defense industries, and some are also licensed pilots.

- *Patent "Law Firm of the Year" (2013, 2014) and ranked National Tier 1 in IP Litigation (2012–2013, 2013–2014), U.S. News – Best Lawyers®*
- *Nationally ranked by Chambers USA, in Intellectual Property*



PRIVACY Our privacy counseling experience includes having drafted comments on behalf of clients for submission to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) ongoing proceeding, "Privacy, Transparency, and Accountability Regarding Commercial and Private Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems." We provide clients with practical legal advice and effective tools to comply with U.S. and international data protection laws, and have substantial experience in handling privacy litigation, including defending class-action lawsuits and government enforcement actions.

- *Privacy "Practice Group of the Year," Law360 (2013)*
- *Nationally ranked by Chambers USA, in Privacy & Data Security*

NATIONALLY RANKED AREAS OF EMPHASIS



INSURANCE RECOVERY Our nationally recognized Insurance Recovery practice advises clients on all types of insurance, including product and general liability, property and business interruption, and rapidly evolving issues affecting cyber insurance. We advise policyholders on how to structure and place insurance for current and emerging risks, make claims and enforce their insurance coverage, and pursue disputed claims to verdict or an award in arbitration.

- *Nationally ranked by Chambers USA, in Insurance: Dispute Resolution: Policyholder*



GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS For companies who design, build, or manufacture UVS for the government, our team offers the skill, experience and resources to successfully navigate complex federal procurement law, negotiate and protect profitable contracts, and resolve contract disputes through litigation and alternative dispute resolution. We provide clients with a broad range of advice and counsel, including matters involving bid protests, claims preparation, False Claims Act, terminations, cost accounting, suspensions and debarments, contract negotiations, GSA schedule and commercial item contracts, data rights, securities clearance issues, and ethics compliance. Many of our lawyers have worked for federal and state government agencies, courts and at large sophisticated contractors, and several attorneys in our practice hold top-secret clearances.

- *Nationally ranked by Chambers USA, in Government: Government Contracts (2015)*



LICENSING AND MONETIZATION Commercialization of technology is a major focus for our Licensing practice. We concentrate on structuring, negotiating and documenting a wide variety of arrangements to acquire, develop, protect and distribute technologies, both domestically and internationally.

- *Technology “Law Firm of the Year,” U.S. News – Best Lawyers® (2015)*

COMPLEMENTARY AREAS OF EMPHASIS



INTERNATIONAL TRADE Our International Trade practice advises clients on compliance with the Export Administration Regulations (EAR) governing commercial and dual-use items, the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) governing military items, and the U.S. sanctions programs of the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC). Attorneys in this practice frequently obtain export licenses and product classifications, submit commodity jurisdiction requests (CJs), assist with voluntary self-disclosures, develop export compliance management systems, conduct related audits and training, and assist with export-related investigations.



REGULATORY COMPLIANCE UVS companies must confront a rapidly changing regulatory environment. Our expertise with regulatory compliance helps companies navigate regulations promulgated by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, as well as state and local authorities. We have experience preparing Section 333 exemption petitions for commercial unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) operations and helping clients obtain special airworthiness certificates to fly experimental UAVs.



RISK MANAGEMENT As UVS companies innovate technologies and integrate them into operations, they must also address the risks of personal injury lawsuits. We provide product liability and other claims counseling to help clients minimize risk. We offer customized workshops that provide employee education on risk management. We also counsel clients on risk analysis and provide guidance on the development of product warnings. If personal injury claims arise, we represent clients in government investigations and vigorously defend them in lawsuits.