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FRANK COPPERSMITH is the CEO and founder of Smarter Reality, a software consultancy focused on product discovery and development most recently building artificial intelligence products for the medical device industry. Frank also serves as the Chair, Austin Game Developers Association which represents over 135 studios and nearly 5,000 game developers in Austin with a mission to help great game developers make great game companies. Before starting his own company, he was President of Capson Technology, a digital health startup backed by BlueCross BlueShield Venture Partners. Prior to Capson, Frank served as Chief Operating Officer and Studio General Manager for GameSalad, the maker of “GameSalad Creator” – a leading tool for mobile application and video game development. Used by over 500,000 independent game developers, GameSalad powered tens of thousands of games worldwide and represented over 20% of all new game launches on the iOS (Apple) App Store in 2011. Frank got his start in the video game industry as Vice President, Finance and Administration for Challenge Online Games, a venture-backed (Sequoia Capital) startup in the web and social (Facebook) gaming space which was sold to Zynga. Prior to Challenge
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SARAH J. NILSSON has both an aviation and a legal background. She began her career as a pilot in 1994. She holds an ATP in multi and single engine fixed-wing airplanes, a gold seal CFI, CFII, MEI, and a small UAS pilot certificate. In 2014, Sarah began her legal career, becoming founder and managing attorney of Nilsson Law, PLLC. Since 2015, she has been full-time faculty at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU) in Prescott, Arizona, teaching Aviation Law, Global UAS Regulations, Global UAS Risk Management, UAS Ground School, How to start a small UAS Business, Business Law, and Business Ethics. Sarah volunteers as a FAA Safety Team Representative with the Scottsdale Flight Standards District Office (FSDO). Sarah is co-author of the 6th edition of Practical Aviation and Aerospace Law, with Scott Hamilton. In 2017, she published her own book on U.S. Drone Law for the American Bar Association entitled Drones Across America. She makes multiple media appearances as an expert in UAS regulation, law, and policy and has published many articles and research documents for the FAA and NASA.

FRANCIS (“FRANK”) X. NOLAN IV currently serves as Counsel, at Eversheds-Suthland (US) LLC, in their New York office. Frank represents private and publicly traded companies across all industries in federal and state litigation and arbitration around the country, with a focus on commercial and consumer litigation, including class actions. He also litigates and arbitrates business-to-business disputes, counsels clients on pre-litigation and compliance matters, advises on contractual issues, as well as defends and counsels companies facing claims or compliance issues arising from insurance and financial regulations, biometric protection and other privacy laws, and a wide variety of consumer protection statutes, including the Telephone Consumer Protection Act. Frank presents and publishes regularly on these and other topics, including drone privacy and biometrics. Before joining the firm, Frank was an associate at an international law firm in New York. Prior to entering the legal field, Frank worked as a policy analyst for the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisitions, where he focused on Congressional relations. In a similar capacity, he assisted the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisitions. Frank is also on the Board of several non-profits.
CLAUDETTE W. PATTON is a consummate networker and encourager now that she’s retired from the full-time practice of law. Founding ChildAdvocateLaw.com in 2017, she now draws upon her legal and education experience to help children gain access to justice, education and benefits. She is a three-time graduate of the University of Louisville earning a Bachelor of Science, Master’s in Education, and Juris Doctor degree. She was a Member of law review, The Journal of Family law, and Editor of the Journal of Law and Education. As a former Assistant Attorney General for the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Law Clerk for the US District Court Western Division, university professor and successful litigator, she was moved in 2017 by the American Bar Association’s call to action to find solutions for colleagues seeking to recover from stress, burnout and substance abuse. Claudette’s passion for mentoring and positioning others for success is evident by her recent completion of doctoral coursework in leadership and organizational effectiveness. Her focus is on the many aspects of workplace culture that improve engagement, foster well-being and avoid burnout, such as meaningful work, positive leadership, resiliency training and more. Her frequent speaking engagements reach coast to coast and thousands of lawyers have benefitted from her expertise, insights and encouragement. Claudette is an author, national legal education speaker, motivational trainer and board member for several nonprofits, including the Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana, Miss Kentucky Scholarship Organization Foundation and the Olive Branch Foundation. She is a youth advisor for the US Congressional Award Foundation, serves as a mentor for at-risk youth, and helps support cadets at the National Guard Challenge Academy. In 2018, the White House recognized her for lifetime achievement with the President’s Volunteer Service Award for youth mentorship and community service. Claudette and her husband have one daughter and reside in Kentucky and Idaho with their three rescue dogs and bird.

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JAMES O. POSS, Maj. Gen. U.S. Air Force, Retired, is the CEO of ISR Ideas, an intelligence and unmanned aerial systems consulting firm. He holds degrees in Political Science (BA), International Relations (MA), National Security and Strategic Studies (MA), and completed the Executive Seminar in International Relations and National Security Studies at Harvard University. He is the founder and former Executive Director of the Alliance for System Safety of UAS through Research Excellence (ASSURE), FAA Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Center of Excellence Team. ASSURE is one of the top U.S., Canadian, Israeli and British UAS Research Universities with 100+ corporate members tasked to solve the FAA's UAS research issues. Poss' ASSURE UAS team won the competition for the FAA's Unmanned Research Center against teams that included MIT, Stanford and Michigan. He is a 30-year U.S. Air Force veteran with combat experience in four wars, and he was the Air Force's Senior Career Intelligence Officer at his transition from active service in November 2012. He is a leading expert on UAS, having helped designed the US Air Force's remote split operations system for UAS control and the Distributed Common Ground Station for UAS intelligence analysis. Gen Poss also has extensive experience in cyber operations from his assignments with the National Security Agency and as the Air Force lead for stand-up of US Cyber Command. He received his commission through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at the University of Southern Mississippi. He flew RC-135 sensitive reconnaissance missions during the Cold War, served in DESERT STORM with the U.S. VII Corps RC-12 Guardrail Battalion in Saudi Arabia, commanded an RC-135 squadron during the Kosovo Air War and was Director of Intelligence for Coalition Air Forces in Southwest Asia at the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom. The General commanded the 488th Intelligence Squadron, Royal Air Force Mildenhall, the 609th Air Intelligence Group at Shaw AFB, SC and 70th Intelligence Wing at Fort George G. Meade, MD. General Poss served as the Director of Intelligence at both Headquarters U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Air Combat Command. His final assignment was Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance, Headquarters U.S. Air Force. He is the 2012 winner of Aviation Week's Curtis Sword Award for his leadership in Anglo-American aerospace relations.

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