Preface

The ever-changing society in which we live requires a basic understanding of the law. Students who anticipate employment in the aviation field should have a working knowledge of the law as applied to aviation topics. We have written *Aviation Law* in order to present the unique interaction of the law and aviation. While we speak to rudimentary international aviation law subjects, we suggest those interested in an in-depth study of international law refer to *International Aviation Law: A Practical Guide*, which is also published by Ashgate.

Our primary goal is the publication of a textbook that provides an introduction to aviation law appropriate for the education of college-level students at the undergraduate and graduate levels as well as practitioners interested in a basic primer on aviation law subjects. The structure of the text provides the instructor with many options. The book starts with foundational legal material and then delves into specific aviation legal topics. In the event that the instructor is teaching a class of students with limited legal knowledge, a serial approach is suggested. For those only interested in the aviation subjects, we suggest starting at Chapter 4: Aviation Regulation.

Law is dynamic and changes over time. However, the fundamentals remain remarkably stable. The US legal system has evolved over several hundred years and is rooted in concepts and processes that are thousands of years old. This text combines explanatory material and case opinions that serve to illustrate legal concepts as applied to aviation. Each chapter presents cases that have been selected in order to expand upon and illustrate the principles of law considered in the text. Cases are in an abbreviated format. In the event that a student or instructor would like to view the full opinion, case titles and citations have been provided.

Contributing authors include practitioners in the field who lend a pragmatic flavor to the book. In particular, Gregory A. Pinnell, MD has added a practitioner’s view of medical certification in Chapter 6; Chris Bernard, Esq., a former student, helped immensely with the aviation insurance information found in Chapter 14; Cameron Cloar, Esq. and Laurel Lorenzini, Esq. former students and aviation lawyers, assisted with research and proofreading. Additional students contributed research and writing to various chapters.

Finally, our family members, friends, and law partners made a sacrifice in allowing us to take valuable time away from the important things in life to draft this text. We owe them great thanks that cannot be adequately expressed through words alone.

We welcome comments and criticism regarding the content and presentation of this book. Deciding content when writing a text is extremely difficult. We hope future editions take the reader’s wants and needs in mind. Please send any comments to Michael.pearson@asu.edu or mpearson@azlaw.com.