

## CURRICULUM VITAE – DENNIS CHARLES O'BRIEN

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### Education & Experience

October 1957: Stood outside with every other person in Pittsburgh PA watching a blinking light pass high overhead, the tumbling upper-stage booster of Sputnik gleaming in the sunset.

1966-70: Saint Vincent Scholasticate, Latrobe, PA. Debate team, student council, valedictorian.

1970-74: Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, PA. Member of student senate, editor of college newspaper (The Review). B.A. in history.

1974-75: Virginia Polytechnic Institute (Virginia Tech), Blacksburg, Virginia. Graduate teaching assistant in the History of Science and Technology. Suspended studies due to illness.

1977-1982: Social Security Administration. Claims representative at field offices, then paralegal at San Francisco CA regional office.

1982-85: University of California, San Francisco (Hastings College of the Law). Focus on federal law, including taxation, patent/copyright, antitrust, regulated industries, labor law, alternative dispute resolution, and space law. Moot Court focus on federal "schemes" (e.g., nuclear power regulation) that pre-empted state law. Research assistant for casebook *Alternative Dispute Resolution* (Kanowitz, West, 1985). Member of the NASA-Hastings Research Project

1986-present: Attorney. Three years business law in San Francisco, the remainder public interest law, helping low-income families and local nonprofits.

2000-10: Director/president, Mendocino Environmental Center, Ukiah CA. Member of the Russian River Watershed Council, advisory board for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

2017: Founded the Space Treaty Project (now the Space Treaty Institute) with related website and online petition in support of the Moon Treaty. <https://www.change.org/p/one-nation-or-all-nations-who-should-make-the-laws-of-outer-space>. Wrote novel *Major Tom* (below).

2018: Attended first International Institute of Space Law (IISL) symposium in U.S. at Colorado Springs (April). Speaker at the IISL component of the International Astronautical Congress In Bremen, Germany (October).

2019: Speaker at CSA-IAA Conference on Advanced Space Technology in Shanghai, China (September). Presenter at IAF-UNOOSA Workshop in Washington, DC (October). Official observer of the Hague Space Resources Governance Working Group. Member of the Moon Village Association (MVA) Coordination & Cooperation Working Group; principal author of MVA white paper on registration & information sharing, presented at MVA's symposium in Japan (December).

2020: Panel Member at Cleveland-Marshall School of Law space law symposium (March). Presenter, Lunar Development Conference of The Moon Society (July). Presenter, International Astronautical Congress (October). Presenter, Moon Village Association Annual Workshop & Symposium (November).

2021: Presenter and panel member (Lunar Governance), Commons in Space Conference, International Association for the Study of the Commons (February)

## **Publications and Presentations** (since January 1, 2018)

(most recent) *In the new spectrum of space law, will Biden favor the Moon Treaty?*, The Space Review, November 23, 2020. <https://www.thespacereview.com/article/4073/1>

*Major Tom: A Story Of Hope* (published January 1, 2018). Free electronic version of second edition available at <http://spacetreaty.org/majortom.pdf>.

*Why it's a bad idea to weaken the Moon Treaty*, The Space Review, March 5, 2018. <https://www.thespacereview.com/article/3444/1>

*Space law 2018: nationalists versus internationalists*, The Space Review, April 30, 2018. <https://www.thespacereview.com/article/3482/1>

*UNISPACE +50: Time for the Moon Treaty*, International Astronautical Congress, Bremen, Germany, September 2018. <https://iafastro.directory/iac/paper/id/46942/ext/appendix/IAC-18,E7,4,5,x46942.pdf>

*Mars: A case study in space law*, The Space Review, November 26, 2018. <https://www.thespacereview.com/article/3609/1>

*Beyond UNISPACE: It's Time for the Moon Treaty*, The Space Review, January 21, 2019. <https://www.thespacereview.com/article/3642/1>

*The Way Forward: An Implementation Agreement for the Moon Treaty*, 8th CSA-IAA Conference on Advanced Space Technology, Shanghai, China), September 2019. <http://spacetreaty.org/implementationagreement.pdf>

*Ensuring Inclusiveness through Space-based Applications and Space Exploration*, 27<sup>th</sup> IAF-UNOOSA Workshop on Space Technology for Socio-Economic Benefits, Washington, D.C., October 18-20 2019 (poster presentation) <https://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/psa/schedule/2019/2019-iaf.html>

*Registration of Landing Sites and Other Surface Activity on the Moon* (White Paper, principal author and presenter), Moon Village Association 3<sup>rd</sup> International Symposium & Workshop, Tokyo/Kyoto, Japan, December 5-8, 2019. <https://moonvillageassociation.org/white-papers-of-coordination-cooperation-working-group-public-consultation/> Also presented proposal for Model Implementation Agreement for Moon Treaty (*The Way Forward*, above).

*Why improved registration is essential for public and private activities on the Moon*, The Space Review, January 13, 2020. <https://www.thespacereview.com/article/3862/1>

*Legal Support for the Private Sector: An Implementation Agreement for the Moon Treaty* (peer-reviewed article for the Journal of Advances in Astronautics Science and Technology). <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s42423-020-00059-w>

*Returning to the Moon: Legal Challenges as Humanity Begins to Settle the Solar System*, a symposium presented by the Global Space Law Center, Cleveland State University, March 6, 2020 (member of panel, *How Will We Govern a Moon Village? Jurisdiction, Enforcement, Standard Setting, and International Cooperation*). <https://www.law.csuohio.edu/newsevents/events/2020030608305549> (with links to videos, transcript)

*Hard law or soft law? The debate about the future of space law*, The Space Review, April 13, 2020. Article about the Cleveland conference. <https://www.thespacereview.com/article/3918/1>

*The Artemis Accords: Repeating the Mistakes of the Age of Exploration*, Modern Diplomacy, June 10, 2020. <https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2020/06/10/the-artemis-accords-repeating-the-mistakes-of-the-age-of-exploration/>

*The Way Forward: An Implementation Agreement for the Moon Treaty*. Video presentation, Lunar Development Conference, The Moon Society, July 20, 2020 (34 minutes). [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hFn\\_igSATy4&list=PLYTFFPBes\\_t1aHKVo362NmJ9NgdcJWReK&index=37&t=0s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hFn_igSATy4&list=PLYTFFPBes_t1aHKVo362NmJ9NgdcJWReK&index=37&t=0s)

*Space Law: How the Moon Treaty can help humanity return to the Moon in a peaceful & sustainable way*. Video presentation, International Astronautical Congress, October 13, 2020. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oFd-kyT6leQ>

*Legal Support for the Moon Village: An Implementation Agreement for the Moon Treaty*. Video presentation, Moon Village Association Annual Workshop & Symposium, November 10, 2020. <https://mva2020.cseo.org.cy/presentations-repository/>

*An Implementation Agreement for the Moon Treaty: A Basic Framework of Governance for the Commons of Outer Space*. Video presentation, Commons in Space Conference, International Association for the Study of the Commons, Feb. 22, 2021. [https://youtu.be/n\\_R70y613Pk](https://youtu.be/n_R70y613Pk)

Member of the International Institute of Space Law.  
Founder/President, The Space Treaty Institute. [www.spacetreaty.org](http://www.spacetreaty.org)



*Cleveland space law panel discusses lunar legal issues. From left: Dennis O'Brien, Michelle Hanlon, Chris Johnson, Steven Mirmina, and Jessy Schingler. (credit: [Cleveland-Marshall School of Law](http://Cleveland-Marshall School of Law))*