

Agenda for the 42nd Annual Sutton Colloquium:
“Drones and their Implication for International Law”

8:00 – 9:00am: *Check-in/ Registration. Continental Breakfast provided.*

9:00 – 9:30am: *Welcoming remarks by Dean Martin Katz and Professor Ved Nanda.*

9:30 – 10:00am: *Opening address by Professor David Akerson.*

In this opening address, Professor Akerson will provide an overview of the conference and topic structure, as well as providing an overview of the phenomenon of robotic warfare and the law of armed conflict.

10:00 – 11:45am: *Modern conflicts, robotic weapons and their implications for International Humanitarian Law, PART I.*

Panel Chair/ Moderator: Professor David Akerson, University of Denver Sturm College of Law

Speaker: Professor Jordan Paust, Houston University (30 minutes)

Commentators: Marc Garlasco, Former Senior Military Expert for Human Rights Watch (15 minutes);
Lt. Col. Rachel VanLandingham, US Air Force Academy (15 minutes)

In this panel, speakers will discuss the changing nature of war and of weapons and the principles of necessity, distinction and proportionality—ethics included. Panelists will also discuss the AP I “feasibility” requirement and the notion of “direct participation” with remote/split operations. The panel will begin with a 30 minute speech by Professor Paust, followed by 15 minutes of commentary from Lt. Col. VanLandingham and Mr. Marc Garlasco. The speech and commentaries will be followed by 20 minutes of Q&A, a **10 minute break** and then by 15 minutes of “rapid fire” topic talk. Total panel time: 1 hour, 45 minutes.

11:45 – 1:15pm: *Lunch: boxed lunches provided and accompanied by a special lunch program addressing the ethics of drone technology. Presenter: Professor Kimon Valavanis, University of Denver School of Engineering.*

1:15 – 3:00pm: *Modern conflicts, robotic weapons and their implications for International Humanitarian Law, PART II.*

Panel Chair/ Moderator: Professor Claude d’Estrée, University of Denver Joseph Korbel School

Speaker: Professor Michael Newton, Vanderbilt University School of Law (30 minutes)

Commentators: Captain Aaron Drake, US Air Force Academy (15 minutes);
Marc Garlasco, Former Senior Military Expert for Human Rights Watch (15 minutes)

In this panel, speakers will discuss 1) the legality of fully-autonomous drones; 2) self-defense and drones; 3) manufacturer liability for drones; and 4) command responsibility and remote split operations. Again, the speech and commentaries will be followed by 20 minutes of Q&A, a **10 minute break** and then by 15 minutes of “rapid fire” topic talk. Total panel time: 1 hour, 45 minutes.

3:00 – 3:15pm: Break

3:15 – 5:00pm: Drones and the use of force under International Law.

Panel Chair/ Moderator: Professor Ved Nanda, University of Denver Sturm College of Law

Speaker: Professor Mary Ellen O’Connell, Notre Dame School of Law (30 minutes)

Commentators: Wing Commander Ian Henderson, Royal Australian Air Force (15 minutes);
Professor Ved Nanda, University of Denver Sturm College of Law (15 minutes)

In this panel, speaker and commentators will address the legal and ethical right to use force under the UN Charter; anticipatory self-defense; sovereignty; and the use of drones in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Somalia. Followed again by 20 minutes of Q&A and followed by the 15 minute rapid fire topic talk. **No 10 minute break. End 4:50pm.**

5:00 pm: Wine Reception.