

ORBITER NEWS

News, announcements, and more.

Aerospace's Malissia Clinton Named Nonprofit In-House Counsel of the Year

December 28, 2020

Malissia R. Clinton, Aerospace senior vice president and general counsel, was named the Non-Profit In-House Counsel of the Year at the tenth annual [Leaders in Law Awards](#).

Organized by the Los Angeles Business Journal, the Leaders in Law Awards honor the leading general counsels and attorneys in the LA area. According to event organizers, there are more than 25,000 members of the Los Angeles Bar

Association and judges received more than 250 nominees in various categories, creating a large field of potential honorees.

At this year's event, held virtually on Nov. 18, Clinton was honored for her work at Aerospace and her dedication to diversity and social justice.

Judges noted, "Whether called upon by organizations to help their leadership teams promote, recruit, and retain a diverse workforce or asked to speak on a panel, Clinton is always ready to put words and thoughts into action."



NONPROFIT IN-HOUSE COUNSEL OF THE YEAR HONOREE

MALISSIA CLINTON*Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary*
The Aerospace Corporation

Malissia Clinton is the senior vice president, general counsel, and secretary for The Aerospace Corporation (Aerospace), the preeminent federally funded research and development center for the space enterprise, including the U.S. Space Force. In this role, she serves as a strategic partner to the C-suite on a broad range of transactional and governance issues, which include compliance, strategy, ethics, mission, and culture. Her even greater role is being a role model and leader for diversity and social justice at Aerospace.

Whether called upon by organizations to help their leadership teams promote, recruit, and retain a diverse workforce or asked to speak on a panel, Clinton is always ready to put words and thoughts into action. For example, she dedicates her personal time to advancing the recruitment, retention, and representation of African American engineers at Aerospace. She established the first company-wide African American resource group and regularly works with Aerospace's Board of Trustees on diversity, which led to the onboarding of two African American trustees. She also serves on the CEO's Executive Diversity Council and is Chair of the Aerospace Diversity Action Committee, which includes management appointees and members of employee resource groups. Recently, she moderated virtual town hall discussions relating to the murder of George Floyd and other social causes.

Clinton is an advisor to Aerospace's Board of Trustees and its committees to guide the company's strategy, reports to the Audit Committee quarterly, and is the management liaison for the Governance and Nominating Committee. She is responsible for identifying board candidates, vetting conflicts of interest, and ensuring the board is compliant with its fiduciary duties.



Leaders in Law organizers cited Clinton's contributions to establishing the Aerospace Black Caucus and work on diversity with the Aerospace Board of Trustees, which led to the onboarding of two African American trustees. They also noted Clinton's role on the CEO's Executive Diversity Council, her position as Chair of the Aerospace Diversity Action Committee and her moderation of virtual town hall discussions relating to the murder of George Floyd and other social causes.

"I'm a little abashed to receive this award," said Clinton. "Diversity is a group effort at Aerospace and I am proud to work for a company that takes its corporate citizenship seriously. I accepted the award on behalf of the company and its amazing employees."

2020 Holiday Gift Drive a Success Thanks to Aerospace Employees

December 21, 2020

In a year marked by a global pandemic and economic uncertainties, Aerospace employees across the country have risen to the occasion by generously donating to the less fortunate this holiday season. While Aerospace's annual Holiday Gift Drive was conducted virtually this year, the donations collected from the effort still made a big impact.



All told, over 400 gifts were graciously donated by Mattel and the Holiday Gift Drive team, and thanks

to the generosity of our employees, Aerospace was able to donate 1,480 gifts to all agencies, including presents purchased with \$1,380 in Venmo donations.

Aerospace employees across the country donated to support their local agencies.

"This year's gift drive was a tremendous success despite having to shift to a virtual effort," said Lianne McGinley, Associate Director of Corporate Social Responsibility. "We were able to facilitate the drive through Amazon and Venmo, resulting in all tags being claimed and most children receiving more than one gift."

In El Segundo, the Holiday Gift Drive team worked with 10 agencies to create a virtual gift drive allowing for tagged items to be purchased as gifts for disadvantaged children. Aerospace gathered 494 tags with a total of 1,001 gifts from a variety of agencies.

While gift sorting parties have been a holiday season highlight in previous years, this year's gift sorting required a reduced number of Aerospace Cares members and the implementation of COVID-19 social distancing and personal protective equipment safety measures.

The Aerospace Black Caucus led a virtual giving drive on the east coast, collecting donations for the Western Fairfax Christian Ministries Food Pantry in Chantilly, VA. They raised \$1,260 in monetary donations

through Aerospace Cares. In another annual tradition, the Chantilly Site Council sponsors two families in need, and this year was able to collect 64 gifts for both families.

“Giving back to our community is a thread woven into our corporate values. Aerospace’s commitment to its people empowers its team to innovate, collaborate, and make a difference. With the pandemic risk still very prevalent, and hundreds of thousands of people without jobs, our employees have stepped up to help provide meals to those less fortunate via local food pantries,” says Terita Norton, Systems Director of the GEOINT Development Office.

Employees in Colorado Springs, Colo., collected in-person gifts in addition to joining the virtual Holiday Gift drive. The COS employees made a great impact with 267 gift donations, and the east coast holiday giving team supported two local families in need, providing them with over 40 gifts.

“The year 2020 has been a tough year for all the peoples of this great nation,” says Dr. Wendy S. Chiado, Senior Project Leader of Aerospace’s Range and Satellite Control Integration department. “With the help and permission of the Colorado Springs Leadership team, the Aerospace Women’s Committee (AWC) was able to set up a drop-off point where employees could drop off donations, and an on-line donation web site, which allowed many to donate items without traveling to the Colorado Springs Aerospace building.”

Aerospace employees in Albuquerque, NM, provided gift bags and presents to the South Valley Care Center, as well as 70 Aerospace bags, 200 yards of ribbon, and two boxes of craft supplies, bingo prizes, and jigsaw puzzles.

NROL-44 Launch: Delivering on Mission Success

December 16, 2020



A United Launch Alliance (ULA) Delta IV Heavy rocket carrying the NROL-44 mission for the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) lifts off from Space Launch Complex-37 at 8:09 p.m. EST on Dec. 10, 2020. Photo Credit: United Launch Alliance

The 12th Delta IV Heavy Launch Vehicle (HLV) lifted off from the recently renamed Cape Canaveral Space Force Station (CCSFS) on Dec. 10 at 8:09 pm EST, delivering the NROL-44 payload precisely to its desired orbit. This was the sixth launch attempt for the mission, which had been plagued with several weather, ground system and flight vehicle issues since the initial attempts in late August.

The Aerospace Corporation supported the launch through an integrated launch team, whose top priority remained focused on mission success. This was evident throughout the entire launch sequence and final count, diligently closing last-minute issues and verifying all flight systems were ready to enter the final terminal count polls.

The teamwork and mission focus were crucial to enabling the successful launch of a critical National Security Space asset approximately two hours into the window. Once off the ground, all launch vehicle systems performed as expected, once again delivering on the promise of mission success.

“This mission was definitely challenging, but the teamwork and commitment to support this critical national payload never wavered,” said Col Erin Gulden, Launch Enterprise senior materiel leader and chief of the Atlas V and Delta IV Division at the U.S. Space Force’s Space and Missile Systems Center. “Despite the lengthy launch campaign, the integrated team of U.S. Government, Aerospace, ULA and technical support contractors remained fully dedicated to ensuring mission success,” added Gulden, expressing her personal thanks and appreciation to the launch team.

Written by Mark A. Brosmer, PhD, General Manager, Launch Operations Division, The Aerospace Corporation

5th Innovation Summit: Advancing Innovation and Collaboration Across the Space Enterprise

December 15, 2020

The space domain is undergoing an unprecedented era of change and this rapid transformation presents an exciting future with new possibilities for innovation. But these opportunities also create new challenges and emerging adversaries that must be anticipated and addressed. Outpacing the threat will require more collaboration across the national security enterprise and the necessary integrated multi-domain operations will be facilitated by next-generation space technologies.



The Aerospace Corporation recently hosted the 5th Annual Innovation Summit, which brought together key technology executives from federally funded research and development centers (FFRDCs), University Affiliated Research Centers (UARCs), government agencies, academia, non-profit organizations and industry to share insight and ideas on tackling some of the nation's hardest problems. The theme of this year's event, which was conducted virtually, focused on "Increased Collaboration to Address the Rapidly Changing Landscape Across the Space Enterprise, and the Multi-Domain Operations It Supports."

"With more than 80 countries pursuing space programs currently, it really compels us to rethink how we build, wire and sustain our national assets, and how we incorporate innovation better. In general, I think the American public—who uses space before they have their first cup of coffee every morning—really needs to understand the threatening nature of what some of our adversaries are doing on orbit," said opening keynote speaker Lt. Gen. John F. Thompson, commander of Space and Missile Systems Center. "I think there needs to be a more of general awareness of how much the nation relies on the space domain for so many different things."

The three-day summit dedicated discussions to major themes, including the role of space-based sensors for combating climate change and catastrophic threats, ensuring supply chain resilience against disruptive shocks (cyber, physical or economic), and enabling collaboration to build the future digital engineering threads for a truly multi-domain joint force.

“It’s urgent that we deliver the innovative technologies that are going to help outpace these threats and ultimately shape the future of space. All of us have a role to play. Innovation happens when we get different people with different perspectives coming together to solve these hard problems,” said Steve Isakowitz, president and CEO of Aerospace. “Increasingly, the problems we’re being asked to solve are too big for any one agency or organization to go it alone. We’re all capable of achieving great things on our own, but I believe that we’ll be even stronger together.”

The summit included breakout sessions designed to enable attendees to collaborate and ideate on integrated solutions for realistic “what-if” scenarios facing the space enterprise. The objective of the summit was to advance the processes, understanding and experiences that will be conducive to enhancing interorganizational integration and coordination in support of the nation’s space systems.

FFRDCs, UARCs and non-profit organizations play a critical role as trusted partners supporting government customers in innovating, developing and integrating technology that advances the interests and security of the US and its allies. Fostering more strategic collaboration and partnerships throughout this unique community is essential to the nation’s continued success in staying ahead of the threat.

“I think this is an important step in growing a unified and collaborative voice across our organizations to make the whole of our capabilities greater than the sum of their parts,” said David Miller, chief technology officer for Aerospace.

Informing Responses for Climate Change

Dr. Gavin A. Schmidt, director for NASA’s Goddard Institute for Space Studies, provided his keynote on the first day’s theme of *Earth Science Enterprise: The Role of Space Based Sensor Network addressing the “Unthinkable”*. His presentation outlined the various existing data and findings, which indicate the growing threat of climate change.

“Modeling is the only viable source of information about the future that we have, because of the universality of physics,” Schmidt said. “We need that to be as skillful and as credible as possible, and we need the data and high-performance computing to allow us to demonstrate that skill and build that credibility. Unfortunately, it’s the societal response to that information that is much harder to predict.”

Mitigating COVID-19’s Impact on Industrial Base

Day two featured a keynote delivered by Dr. Jason Matheny, director of Georgetown’s Center for Security and Emerging Technology, on the theme of *Ensuring the Resilient Supply Chains: Essential Connections Between Talent and Technology*. His presentation was based largely on the insight found from the recent white paper he co-authored, *Mitigating Economic Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic and Preserving U.S. Strategic Competitiveness in AI*, which included recommendations to better understand vulnerabilities and strengthen the defense industrial base.

“I don’t think success in many of these supply chain issues is going to be as wholesome as anyone would hope until the end of COVID-19,” Matheny said. “I think that has to be the priority right now. Unless we get

that right, we can't get anything else right. We will just not be able to move forward until we end the pandemic."

Embracing the Digital Transforming of the Space Enterprise

On the final day of the summit, Maj. Gen. Kimberly Crider, mobilization assistant to the Chief of Space Operations, delivered a message on the theme of *Enabling Collaboration through Digital Engineering: Combining Models to Tackle Challenging Problems* and the need to embrace digital engineering to modernize the space enterprise. Acknowledging the upcoming one-year anniversary of the U.S. Space Force on Dec. 20, she discussed how the scale, scope, complexity and pace of today's space domain operations requires the ability to work faster, smarter and more connected to outpace the threat.

"We created our advantage in space with Industrial Age technologies, but now the Information Age technologies, and the skills and the capabilities that the Information Age brings us, is really what's going to allow us to extend and sustain our advantage in space," Crider said. "Digital engineering is really part of our future. Our intent is to take the digital engineering ecosystem and extend it all the way out to force design and strategic architecture through capability development all the way out to operations and sustainment and have a Space Force that can truly work in a complete digital thread. That's pretty exciting and that will enable us to really transform everything that we do."

Solving the Hardest Problems Through Collaboration

This year's Innovation Summit successfully brought together some of the nation's leading technical minds to discuss major current and future challenges, such as climate change and supply chain vulnerability, which can only be addressed through increased innovation and collaboration. Embracing new concepts and approaches, such as digital engineering and multi-domain integration, opens up new possibilities to advance the space enterprise to improve resilience, agility, and velocity in tackling these hard problems.

Aerospace's 2020 Annual Report: Forging Resiliency for the Future

December 10, 2020

In a year of unprecedented change, Aerospace continued to deliver the trusted technical expertise and objective analysis that have defined our company for more than 60 years, supporting our customers across the space enterprise as they work to advance our nation's leading role in space.

We invite you to explore Aerospace's 2020 Annual Report, *Forging Resiliency for the Future*, which spotlights the accomplishments and breakthroughs that strengthen our value as the nation's trusted partner for space.



Similar to last year's report, this digital experience is designed to enhance usability and readability, allowing for more graphics and animations to help tell the story of Aerospace's achievements throughout FY2020.

Be sure to check out the interactive timeline, which allows you to take a journey through our rich history and proud legacy of technical excellence and commitment to mission success.

[Access the full 2020 Annual Report here.](#)

Former Aerospace Chairman and Space Industry Legend Peter Teets Dies at age 78

December 04, 2020

The Honorable Peter B. Teets, former chairman of Aerospace's Board of Trustees, died at the age of 78 on Sunday, Nov. 29, 2020.

During his distinguished career, Teets served as Under Secretary of the Air Force, Director of the National Reconnaissance Office, and President and COO of Lockheed Martin Corporation.

Teets joined Aerospace's Board in June 2005 and was elected chairman in December 2008, serving with honor until his retirement in December 2013.

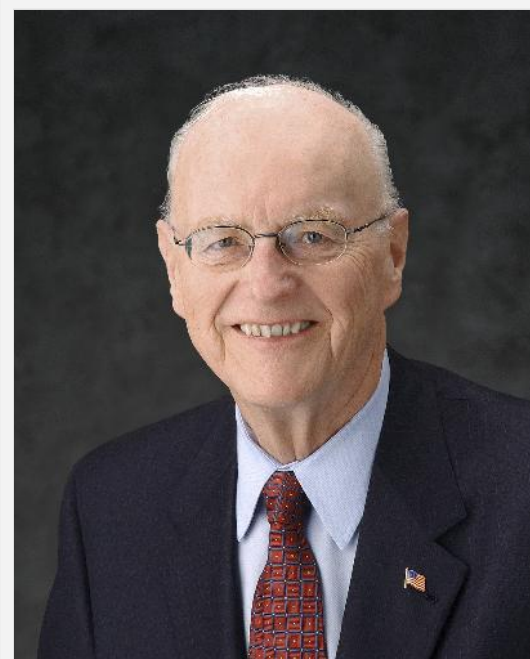
"Pete distinguished himself throughout a remarkable career dedicated to the nation's military, commercial space, intelligence and national security communities. We were privileged to have him serve as a trustee and Chairman of the Aerospace Board of Trustees," said President and CEO Steve Isakowitz.

"His experience and grace in tackling the tough issues and asking the hard questions was invaluable. The space enterprise greatly benefitted from Peter's visionary leadership and loyal service," said Mike Donley, current Chairman of Aerospace's Board of Trustees and former Secretary of the Air Force from June 2008 to June 2013.

During his tenure as a member of Aerospace's Board, Teets served on the Governance and Nominating Committee, the Executive Committee, the Finance and Strategic Planning Committee, the Technical Committee, and the IR&D Subcommittee. He also served on the CEO Search and Transition Subcommittees that selected Dr. Wanda M. Austin, the first woman and first African-American to lead the corporation.



Peter Teets speaking at Aerospace's 50th Anniversary reception.



Peter B. Teets, former Chairman of Board of Trustees for Aerospace.

Under his guidance and leadership on the Board, Aerospace constructed its Chantilly, Va. campus to enhance the support to our NRO customer, and completed the bridge to Space and Missile Systems Center in El Segundo, Calif., which symbolizes our support to SMC and a promise for a continued successful relationship well into the future.

His depth of expertise and considerable drive helped Aerospace's success in supporting the mission and through the realization of many achievements, including for programs such as the Global Positioning System (GPS), Wideband Global SATCOM, Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES), the development of AeroCube satellites, Space Based Infrared System (SBIRS), Mobile User Objective System (MUOS), Advanced Extremely High Frequency system (AEHF), and the launch enterprise.

From 2001 to 2005, Teets held dual responsibilities as Under Secretary of the Air Force and Director of the NRO. As Air Force Under Secretary, he was responsible for all actions of the Air Force on behalf of the Secretary of the Air Force and served as acting secretary in the secretary's absence. He oversaw recruiting, training, and equipping more than 710,000 people and managed a budget of approximately \$110 billion. As NRO director, he was responsible for the acquisition and operation of all U.S. space-based reconnaissance and intelligence systems, including management of the National Reconnaissance Program, where he reported directly to the Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence.

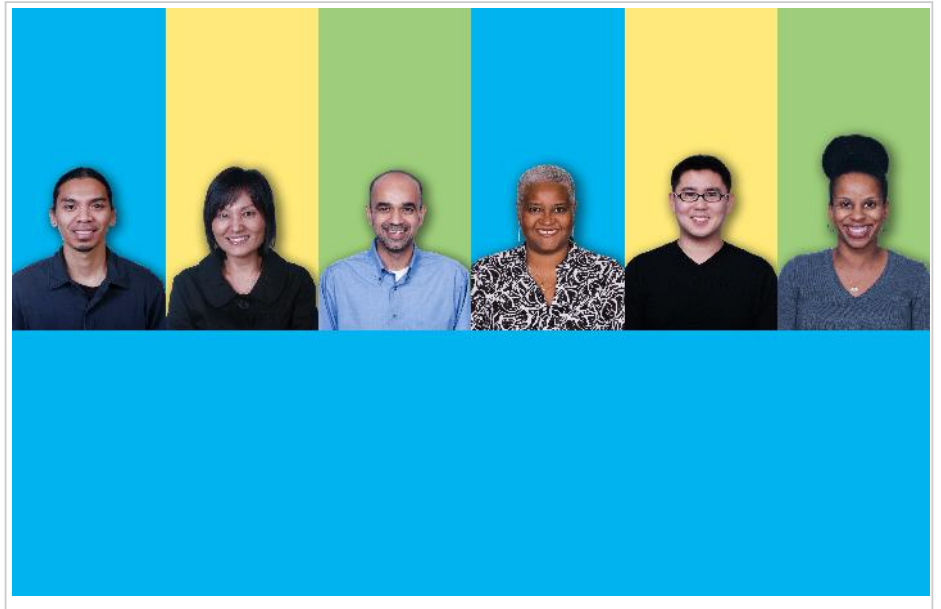
For his outstanding contributions, Teets was honored with numerous prestigious awards in the space industry, including the General James E. Hill Lifetime Space Achievement Award, the Dr. Wernher von Braun Space Flight Trophy, the W. Stuart Symington Award for most significant contribution by a civilian for national defense, the Goddard Astronautics Award, and the Bob Hope Distinguished Citizen Award, among others.

The Honorable Peter B. Teets Award, named in his honor, recognizes public and private sector leadership or achievement that results in significant contributions to the development, introduction, operational contribution, or support of space systems, and is the highest honor presented by The National Defense Industrial Association's (NDIA) Space Division.

The 2020 Corporate Social Responsibility Report Now Available!

December 02, 2020

The 2020 Corporate Social Responsibility Report, ***Building a Brighter Tomorrow***, is now available. This year's report has shifted to a 100% digital format and highlights the meaningful ways Aerospace employees across the enterprise went above and beyond, stepping up to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our people against COVID-19, and taking action to foster greater diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) at our company and in our communities.



Among the features in this year's report include Aerospace establishing a strategic framework, led by the Office of DEI and Executive Diversity Council, to augment and reinforce our efforts in creating long-lasting impact for a diverse and inclusive workplace where our people are empowered to bring their best selves to collaborate and create innovative solutions for our customers.

This holistic effort spans the entire enterprise and is based on a foundation of six critical Focus Areas: Recruitment, Representation, Retention, Education and Training, K-12 STEM Outreach and Community Outreach. The Aerospace Committee for Equality (ACE) was established to assess, recommend and execute the corporation's DEI actions in these Focus Areas, and has identified 34 specific initiatives.

"Aerospace has a long tradition of corporate citizenship and supporting STEM, but especially this year, we saw an increase in Aerospace's commitment to DEI, led by ACE's efforts in addressing the six focus areas," said Lianne McGinley, associate director of Aerospace's Corporate Social Responsibility. "Throughout the year, our employees continued to find ways to give back and provide support to those that need our help the most."

Other stories highlight some of the many donation and volunteer efforts, Employee Resource Group (ERGs) events, and STEM efforts from the past year.

We invite you to experience the full ***[2020 Corporate Social Responsibility Report](#)*** *here*.

December 2020 Obituaries

December 01, 2020

Sincere sympathy is extended to the families of:

- **John Capozza**, office of technical support, hired August 29, 1960, retired June 1, 1996, died Nov. 3, 2020
- **Richard Egelston**, member of technical staff, hired Feb. 14, 1980, retired Aug. 1, 1987, died Oct. 12, 2020
- **Stephen Griley**, office of technical support, hired Nov. 24, 1975, retired March 1, 2011, died Nov. 21, 2020
- **James Harris**, member of technical staff, hired April 9, 1979, retired March 1, 1993, died Oct. 27, 2020
- **William Hassel**, member of technical staff, hired Aug. 22, 1981, retired Nov. 1, 1991, died Nov. 6, 2020
- **Donald Johnson**, member of technical staff, hired July 1, 1968, retired Oct. 1, 1996, died Oct. 6, 2020

To notify Aerospace of a death and have it included in the Orbiter, please contact People Operations at (310) 336-5107.

*These articles are reprinted from The Orbiter, a publication of The Aerospace Corporation 2310 E. El Segundo Blvd., El Segundo, CA 90245-4691 310-336-5000
Visit: Aerospace.org
Contact Orbiter staff: Orbiter@aero.org*

www.aerospace.org

