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### Romano named a Rumsfeld Graduate Fellow

James Owsley Boyd

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# Romano named a Rumsfeld Graduate Fellow

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[blogs.iu.edu/maurerlaw/2023/06/06/romano-named-a-rumsfeld-graduate-fellow](https://blogs.iu.edu/maurerlaw/2023/06/06/romano-named-a-rumsfeld-graduate-fellow)

by joboyd

June 6, 2023

**James Romano**'s interests are out of this world. The 2L at the Indiana University Maurer School of Law is intrigued by the futuristic sounding concept of space law, but is quick to note that there's nothing futuristic about it.

"More private companies are rapidly entering space," Romano said, "and I'm deeply interested in the question of 'What does the future of space look like?'"



James Romano

While Romano's focus may be directed upward, his trajectory on Earth is quickly ascending.

Romano is one of 14 scholars selected as a Rumsfeld Foundation Graduate Fellow for 2023-24. The fellowships, named in honor of the late former U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald W. Rumsfeld, are awarded to students and scholars who aspire to careers in public service.

For Romano, a Columbia City, Ind. native, earning the fellowship is evidence he's on the right track.

"I came to IU specifically because of the Direct Admit program Maurer has with undergraduate programs," he said. "I knew I'd always wanted to study law, so I joined the Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies for its International Law and Institutions program."

That background in international law intersects perfectly with Romano's interest in space law.

“I wrote my undergraduate thesis on private liability in outer space,” he said. “I analyzed what other countries do—looking at the national laws of places like China, the United States, the United Kingdom, and South Africa and did a comparative study of their regulations. My research suggested there should be a more international focus to how we regulate space law.”

Romano also used his 1L year to serve as a research assistant with the newly formed Space Governance Lab, part of the prestigious Ostrom Workshop. The lab hosts a variety of research projects and events and offers courses on space law and governance, and additional support to students interested in space law. Romano also founded the Law School’s Space Law Society, one of the school’s newest student organizations.

“James has been a key part of the team investigating cutting-edge issues of space cybersecurity in the war in Ukraine, and otherwise,” said **Scott Shackelford**, Provost Professor of Business Law and Ethics at the IU Kelley School of Business and executive director of the Ostrom Workshop. “I couldn’t be more excited about his selection as a Rumsfeld Fellow, or more appreciative of his outstanding work with the Ostrom Workshop’s Space Governance Policy Lab.”

Over 75 percent of alumni of the Graduate Fellowship Program are currently serving in public service or policy fields, including in a wide variety of capacities in the Departments of Defense, State and Treasury, the U.S. military, U.S. Congress, state and local government, policy and research centers, academia and more.