

FOR RELEASE

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EPIC Files Opening Brief in EPIC v. FAA, Argues for Drone Privacy Rules

WASHINGTON, DC – The Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC) has sued the Federal Aviation Administration for its failure to establish privacy safeguards for commercial drones in the United States.

EPIC filed its opening brief on Monday, September 28, with the U.S. Federal Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.

In 2012, EPIC petitioned the federal agency to establish privacy rules for drones. EPIC said, “with special capabilities and enhanced equipment, drones are able to conduct far more detailed surveillance,” of the American public. More than 100 organizations and experts joined the EPIC petition.

Also in 2012, Congress passed the FAA Modernization and Reform Act. That law required the FAA to implement a “Comprehensive Plan” to integrate drones into the national airspace.

However, earlier this year the FAA failed to propose privacy rules for drones.

EPIC President Marc Rotenberg said, “It is inconceivable that in 2015 the FAA does not recognize the threat drones pose to privacy. The Court must order the agency to do what EPIC asked and Congress mandated.”

The case is *EPIC v. Federal Aviation Administration*, No. 15-1075, filed March 31, 2015, in the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. The attorneys are Marc Rotenberg, EPIC President; Khaliah Barnes, EPIC Associate Director; Alan Butler, EPIC Senior Counsel; and Jeramie D. Scott, EPIC National Security Counsel. More information is available at epic.org/privacy/litigation/apa/faa/drones/

EPIC is a public interest research organization, established in 1994 to focus public attention on emerging privacy and civil liberties issues. EPIC has successfully pursued cases against federal agencies, including *EPIC v. DHS*, which led to the removal of backscatter x-ray devices from US airports. More information about EPIC is available at www.epic.org.

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