



Geoff Masel 2025 Prize Recipient Matthew Leathers – Biography



Matthew Leathers is a master's student at Victoria University of Wellington, researching reforms to international space law to address the space debris crisis threatening Earth's orbital sustainability. After earning his Bachelor of Laws in 2024, he received a scholarship to pursue a master's thesis on this critical issue.

Having shifted from a hospitality career, Matthew is driven by a lifelong passion for space and a deep interest in law, aspiring to contribute to the evolving field of space law.

His Geoff Masel submission critiques the geocentric definition of "outer space," advocating for a Copernican shift in legal perspective to support human habitation and prevent conflict in space.