



JOURNAL OF AIR LAW AND COMMERCE

PRESENTS THE

59th Annual **SMU Air Law Symposium**

TUESDAY, APRIL 1 –
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2025

SMU® Dedman School of Law

2025 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

59TH ANNUAL AIR LAW SYMPOSIUM
Omni Las Colinas, 221 East Las Colinas Boulevard, Irving, TX 75039

MONDAY, MARCH 31, 2025

6:00 P.M. – Early Check-in & Late Registration
9:00 P.M.

6:00 P.M. Welcome Reception

TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2025

7:30 A.M. Continental Breakfast

7:30 A.M. – Check-in & Late Registration
5:00 P.M.

MORNING SESSION

Ladd Sanger, Presiding

8:15 A.M. **Ladd Sanger**
Welcoming Remarks

8:30 A.M. **David A. Frank, II / Nicole T. Melvani**
Wilson Elser – *Recent Developments in Aviation Law*

9:30 A.M. **Drew Coats**
Coats Aviation Law, PC – *Cleared Direct to Destination: Choosing the Best Course for Business Aviation Regulatory Compliance*

10:00 A.M. **Jim Kiser**
Anderson & Riddle, LLP – *Tackling Touhy after Loper Bright: What's the Deference?*

10:30 A.M. Morning Break

Bill O'Connor, Presiding

10:45 A.M. **Andrew C. Johnson**
Condon & Forsyth LLP – *Spoiling for A Fight: A Survey of Evidence Preservation Obligations and Remedies*

11:45 A.M. Luncheon
Presentation of the 22nd Annual International Aviation Womens Association Scholarship

12:15 P.M. Luncheon speaker **TBD**
JSX – *Topic: TBA*

AFTERNOON SESSION

Pam Hicks, Presiding

1:15 P.M. **Mark Tomicich**
Beartooth Aviation Law, PLLC – *Topic: TBA*

2:00 P.M. **Andrew C. Robb**
Robb & Robb LLC – *Counsel In The Aviation Bar Get Along Well: Is That Good or Bad?*

2:30 P.M. Afternoon Break

Debra Fowler, Presiding

2:45 P.M. **Jamie Thornback**
CFM Lawyers LLP – *The Shootdown of PS752: Carrier Liability for Overflight Risks*

3:30 P.M. **William "Sham" Highsmith**
Habersham Aviation Consulting, LLC – *Illegal Charters: Don't Kill the Messenger*

4:00 P.M. **Steve Rosen**
Rosen & Schneider, LLC – *ETHICS Topic: Lessons In Ethics (And Other Things) From The Movies*

5:00 P.M. **Debra Fowler**
Closing Remarks

5:05 P.M. Evening Reception

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2025

7:30 A.M. Continental Breakfast

MORNING SESSION

Garrett Pendleton, Presiding

8:15 A.M. **Roy Goldberg**
Clark Hill PLC – *The Siege of SEATAC: Contingency Lawyer Efforts to Shut Down or Severely Restrict Airports and the Airline Industry (and What to Do About It)*

8:45 A.M. Panel: **Current Aviation Insurance Claims Issue**
Moderator: **Laura McGinn, Esq.** – Starr Adjustment Services, Inc.
Panelists: **Matthew Gray** – Old Republic Aerospace
Courtney Newsom – Sompco
Emily Pullano – AGCS Allianz
Emmet Schwartzman – Great American Insurance Group

9:45 A.M. Morning Break

Pam Hicks, Presiding

10:00 A.M. **David A. Walton**
Bell Nunnally & Martin LLP – *Topic: TBA*

10:30 A.M. **Bryon A. Rice**
Hicks Davis Wynn, P.C. – *Agricultural Aviation: A Brief Look at the Field*

11:00 A.M. **Steven Kirsch / Steven Jarreau**
U.S. Department of Justice – *Forty Years and Counting: The Enduring Legacy of Varig Airlines in Protecting the Government's Role in Regulating Aviation*

11:30 A.M. Luncheon

12:15 P.M. Luncheon Speaker **Mark Smith**
Topic: TBA

Raffle sponsored by ESI

AFTERNOON SESSION

Bill O'Connor, Presiding

1:15 P.M. **Jonathan Elifson**
Fisher & Phillips LLP – *What Aviation Lawyers Should Know About Airline Collective Bargaining: An Overview of the Railway Labor Act*

1:45 P.M. **Kevin R. Boyle**
Boyle Law PC – *Strategies on dealing with Statute of Limitations when NTSB has not released wreckage*

2:15 P.M. Afternoon Break

Ladd Sanger, Presiding

2:30 P.M. **Shauna Wright**
Kelly Hart & Hallman, LLP – *Witness Preparation: Bulletproof Techniques (And other modern myths)*

3:00 P.M. Panel: **General Counsel**
Moderator: **Garrett L. Pendleton** – Starr Adjustment Services, Inc.
Panelists: **Kevin Cabaniss** – Airbus Helicopters Inc.
Josh Gang – Piper Aircraft, Inc.
Josh Ryland – TransDigm Group
John Sams – Bell Textron Inc.

4:00 P.M. **T.J. Keevins**
Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP – *Ethic NOTAMS: Cases and Practical Ethics Concerns For The Aerospace Sector Practitioner*

5:00 P.M. **Ladd Sanger**
Closing Remarks

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International Aerospace Womens Association – Leesburg, Virginia

EXHIBITORS

A&P Aviation Consulting, Inc. – Ronkonkoma, New York
ESi – Seattle, Washington
Habersham Aviation Consulting, LLC – Atlanta, Georgia
U.S. Legal Support – Houston, Texas

ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTORS

Avis Rent A Car System, LLC – Parsippany, New Jersey
Budget Rent A Car System, Inc. – Parsippany, New Jersey

2025 SPEAKERS

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WILCOX, ALEX

JSX
Dallas, Texas

WRIGHT, SHAUNA

Kelly Hart & Hallman, LLP
Fort Worth, Texas

SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATION INFORMATION

SMU Air Law Symposium

The 59th Annual SMU Air Law Symposium will be held Tuesday, April 1 – Wednesday, April 2, 2025.

Register online at <https://sites.smu.edu/apps/events/air-law/> with major credit card.

The registration attendee names and contact information will be published in the Attendees List at the Symposium.

REGISTRATION RATES PER PERSON (includes sessions, digital materials, meals, and receptions).

\$495 Early Registration (price ends **March 7, 2025**)

\$545 Regular Registration

\$325 First-Time Attendee Rate

\$400 Full-Time Government Employee Rate

\$225 Full-Time Non-SMU Student Rate



OMNI LAS COLINAS HOTEL ROOM REQUEST INFORMATION

59th ANNUAL SMU AIR LAW SYMPOSIUM, April 1-2, 2025

Omni at Las Colinas Hotel, 221 East Las Colinas Blvd., Irving, Texas 75039
Call 1(800) 843-OMNI (6664) or (972) 556-0800 for room reservations or use the following link <https://bookings.omnihotels.com/event/dallas-las-colinas/smu-air-law-symposium-2025>.

THESE RATES ARE GUARANTEED ONLY UNTIL MARCH 10, 2025 AT 5:00 P.M. C.S.T. OR UNTIL THE ROOM BLOCK IS SOLD OUT

GUARANTEED RESERVATION 72 HOURS PRIOR TO SCHEDULED ARRIVAL.
Rates subject to applicable taxes. Special Rates are also available for triple or quad occupancy. For further information, please inquire with the hotel.

Please note: The special room rates are limited and are not available if you book your reservation through a travel agent.

Reservations received after **March 10, 2025 or after the room block is sold out** will be booked on a space available basis. Check in time is 3:00 p.m. Check out time is 12:00 p.m. YOU MUST GUARANTEE YOUR ROOM WITH A CREDIT CARD IN THE AMOUNT OF THE FIRST NIGHT'S ROOM RENTAL. ROOM CHARGES FOR ONE NIGHT WILL BE BILLED FOR FAILURE TO CANCEL GUARANTEED RESERVATION 72 HOURS PRIOR TO SCHEDULED ARRIVAL.

GENERAL INFORMATION

SYMPOSIUM INFORMATION: Contact the **SMU Air Law Symposium**, Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law, P.O. Box 750116, Dallas, Texas 75275-0116; call (214) 768-2570, e-mail jalcals@smu.edu, or visit the website at <https://www.smu.edu/law/students/law-journals/air-law-symposium/general-information>.

LOCATION: The 59th Annual SMU Air Law Symposium in-person event will be held at the Omni Las Colinas, 221 East Las Colinas Boulevard, Irving, TX 75039. A block of hotel rooms at symposium special rates have been arranged at the Omni Las Colinas and may be reserved at online registration or at <https://bookings.omnihotels.com/event/dallas-las-colinas/smu-air-law-symposium-2025>. The special rate will end at 5:00 pm C.S.T. on **March 10, 2025** or until rooms run out.

GROUND TRANSPORTATION: Discounted rental car rates are available through Avis Rent-A-Car and Budget Rent-A-Car. The Avis Worldwide Discount Number assigned to the SMU Air Law Symposium is D105540. To receive discounted car rental rates, you may book online as usual and enter our code under the "Discount Code" section or reach Avis directly at 1-800-331-1600. The Budget Corporate Discount Number assigned to the SMU Air Law Symposium is B197864. To receive discounted car rental rates, you may book online as usual and put our code under the "Offer Code" section or reach Budget directly at 1-800-842-5628.

REGISTRATION FEES: Early Bird Registration for our event is **\$495** per person. This discounted rate will be available through **March 7, 2025**. Registrations can be done at <https://s3.smu.edu/apps/events/air-law/>

After **March 7, 2025**, the registration fee is **\$545** per person.

SPECIAL RATES: As an incentive for First-Time attendees, a special rate of **\$325** is offered. Government employees may register for **\$400** per person. The Non-SMU Student registration rate is **\$225** per person. The Government and Student rates are restricted to **full-time** employees of state or federal government agencies and **full-time** students. Please select one of these rates when registering online.

All registration fees include the cost of all sessions of the Symposium, a link to the digital Symposium materials, and a one-year subscription to the *Journal of Air Law and Commerce*.

REFUND/CANCELLATION POLICY: Registrants needing to cancel an existing registration must contact our office at 214-768-2570 or email jalcals@smu.edu. Through **March 17, 2025**, a full refund of the registration fee paid will be given and no materials will be sent. After **March 17, 2025**, registrants who cancel their registration and do not attend the Symposium will receive a refund in the amount of the fee paid less **\$200** for the cost of materials and administrative expenses. The link to the online materials will be sent to you after the event.

CLE ACCREDITATION: The 59th Annual SMU Air Law Symposium provides registrants with continuing legal education credits suitable to meet various states' mandatory continuing legal education requirements. Depending on each state bar, generally 8 to 10 hours of CLE credit are awarded for attending the Symposium. Registrants wishing certification of their attendance to be sent to the appropriate boards **MUST SIGN IN** at the CLE Information Desk at registration for **all sessions** attended and provide all information needed for certification. For CLE information, please email our CLE editor at clejalc@smu.edu.

SYMPOSIUM COURSE MATERIALS: Each registrant will receive a link to the online Symposium materials as a part of the registration fee. Those registrants also wanting hard copies of the Symposium materials may purchase a book for \$50. For registrants who would like extra hard copies or for those who are unable to attend the Symposium but would like the link to the online Symposium materials or a hard copy, the Symposium materials will be available for purchase for a flat fee of \$100 each. Please go to our registration page and there will be an option to purchase the Symposium materials. You may also email jalcals@smu.edu or call (214) 768-2570 to order. Those purchasing hard copies of the Symposium materials after March 7, 2025 will receive their copy/copies in the mail.

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