



---

*Journal of Air Law and Commerce*  
Presents  
**59<sup>th</sup> Annual SMU Air Law Symposium**  
**April 1-2, 2025**

---

Omni Las Colinas, 221 East Las Colinas Boulevard, Irving, TX 75039

**MONDAY, MARCH 31, 2025**

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm    Early Check-in & Late Registration  
6:00 pm                Welcome Reception – Lake Highlands Room (Lake Level floor)

**TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2025**

7:30 am                Continental Breakfast

**MORNING SESSION**

**Ladd Sanger, Presiding**

8:15 am                **Ladd Sanger**  
Welcoming Remarks

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

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

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

10:30 am              Morning Break



**Bill O'Connor, Presiding**

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

11:45 am	Luncheon	Presentation of the 22 <sup>nd</sup> Annual International Aerospace Womens Association Scholarship
----------	----------	--

12:15 pm	Luncheon Speaker	Fireside Chat <b>Kerrie Forbes</b> , JSX <b>Ladd Sanger</b> , Slack Davis Sanger, LLP <i><b>JSX – Making Travel a Joyful, Simple Experience</b></i>
----------	------------------	--

## AFTERNOON SESSION

**Pam Hicks, Presiding**

1:15 pm **Mark Tomicich**  
Beartooth Aviation Law, PLLC – *Federal Rules of Civil Procedure*  
*Rule 34 and ATC Facility Inspections*

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

2:30 pm                      Afternoon Break

**Debra Fowler, Presiding**

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

3:30 pm **William “Sham” Highsmith**  
Habersham Aviation Consulting, LLC – *Illegal Charters: Don’t Kill the Messenger*

4:00 pm **Steve Rosen**  
Rosen & Schneider, LLC – *Lessons in Ethics (And other things) from the Movies*

5:00 pm                      **Debra Fowler**  
Closing Remarks

5:05 pm Evening Reception – Mandalay Ballroom



## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2025

7:30 am Continental Breakfast

### MORNING SESSION

#### Garrett Pendleton, Presiding

8:15 am **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 am Panel: *Current Aviation Insurance Claims Issues*  
Moderator: **Laura McGinn, Esq.** – Starr Adjustment Services, Inc.  
Panelists: **Matthew Gray** – Old Republic Aerospace  
**Courtney Newsom** – Sompco  
**Emily Pullano** – Allianz Global Corporate & Specialty  
**Emmet Schwartzman** – Great American Insurance Group

9:45 am Morning Break

#### Pam Hicks, Presiding

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

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

11:30 am Luncheon

12:15 pm Luncheon speaker **Mark Smith, WFAA-TV**  
*Great news stories are triggered by intriguing, even confounding questions. Objective: Find the Answer*

Raffle sponsored by ESi



## **AFTERNOON SESSION**

### **Bill O'Connor, Presiding**

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

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

2:15 pm            Afternoon Break

### **Ladd Sanger, Presiding**

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

3:00 pm            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 Inc.  
              **John Sams** – Bell Textron Inc.

4:00 pm            **Gene K. Kaskiw**  
Worthe Hanson Worthe & Kaskiw LLP – *ETHICS TBA*

5:00 pm            **Ladd Sanger**  
Closing Remarks

