



JOURNAL OF AIR LAW AND COMMERCE

PRESENTS THE

60th Annual **SMU Air Law Symposium**

TUESDAY, MARCH 31 –
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2026

SMU Dedman School of Law

2026 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

60TH ANNUAL AIR LAW SYMPOSIUM
Omni Las Colinas, 221 East Las Colinas Boulevard, Irving, TX 75039

MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2026

6:00 P.M. – Walk-in / Late Registration only
9:00 P.M.

6:00 P.M. – Welcome Reception – Lake Highlands Room (Lake Level floor)
8:00 P.M.

TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2026

7:15 A.M. Registration / CLE check-in
Continental Breakfast

MORNING SESSION

Ladd Sanger, Presiding

8:00 A.M. Welcoming Remarks

8:15 A.M. **Matt Martinez / Mike Tetreault**
Cooley LLP – *Recent Developments in Aviation Law*

9:15 A.M. **Steven Jarreau / Steven Kirsch**
U.S. Department of Justice – *Forty Years and Counting: The Enduring Legacy of Varig Airlines in Protecting the Government's Role in Regulating Aviation*

9:45 A.M. Morning Break

Pam Hicks, Presiding

10:00 A.M. **Darren Gaines**
Fly Vector LLC
Jon Stern
Victor Rane – *Air Traffic Control Law in the United States: An Overview of Regulation, Litigation, and Liability for the Provision of Air Traffic Control Services*

10:30 A.M. **Kevin Mahoney**
Kreindler & Kreindler LLP – *Lightning Strikes and Ramp Worker Safety*

11:00 A.M. **Jocelyn LaBove**
Jocelyn Y. LaBove, PLLC – *Flight Plan for Success: An Introduction to Airport Law*

11:30 A.M. Luncheon

12:00 P.M. Luncheon Speaker **Stephen Creamer**
ATCA – *Topic: TBD*

Presentation of the 23rd Annual International Aerospace Womens Association Scholarship

AFTERNOON SESSION

Garrett Pendleton, Presiding

1:15 P.M. Panel: **Anatomy of an Accident: From Crisis to Litigation Management**
Moderator: **Ken Quinn** – Clyde & Co LLP
Panelists: **Don Chupp** – Fireside Partners Inc.
David Fuscus – Xenophon Strategies, Inc.
Justin Green – Kreindler & Kreindler LLP
Roberta Miranda – Marsh LLC
Rodney Patton – U.S. Department of Justice
Meg Taylor – Delta Air Lines, Inc.

2:15 P.M. **Tom Gricks**
OpenText
Lee Schmeer
Victor Rane – *Don't Fly Solo in Aviation Litigation – Trust But Verify Your (GenAI) CoPilot...Protegé...CoCounsel*

2:45 P.M. Afternoon Break

Bill O'Connor, Presiding

3:00 P.M. **Mica Worthy**
Cranfill Sumner LLP – *Got Space Junk? Cosmic Liability When Sky is Falling*

3:30 P.M. **David Downey**
Downey Aviation Services
Hoa Nguyen
Troutman Pepper Locke LLP – *Speaking the Same Language: An Expert's Guide on How to Work Effectively with Your Experts in Aviation Product Liability Cases*

4:00 P.M. **Kevin Durkin**
Clifford Law Offices – *Update on Boeing Max Litigation*

4:30 P.M. **Greg S. Lander**
Coats Aviation Law, PC – *See and Avoid – Illegal Charter*

- 5:30 P.M. **Bill O'Connor**
Closing Remarks
- 5:35 P.M. Evening Reception – Mandalay Ballroom

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2026

- 7:30 A.M. Registration / CLE check-in
Continental Breakfast

MORNING SESSION

Pam Hicks, Presiding

- 8:15 A.M. Panel: **Current Aviation Claims Issues**
Moderator: **Garrett Pendleton** – Starr Adjustment Services, Inc.
Panelists: **Anthony Murphy, Esq.** – Global Aerospace, Inc.
Sherry J. Ortiz, Esq. – Gallagher Global Aerospace
Keri Ryan – AXA XL
Glenn Vallach – USAIG
- 9:15 A.M. **Ed Libassi**
A&P Aviation Consulting, Inc. – ***Beyond Probable Cause: Leveraging Expert Insights in Aviation Accident Litigation and How to Best Work with Expert Consultants***
- 9:45 A.M. **Carliss Chatman**
SMU, Dedman School of Law – ***Flying Blind: Caremark, Catastrophic Risk, and Corporate Governance After Boeing***
- 10:15 A.M. **Jerrod Mills**
U.S. Legal Support – ***Technology in the Courtroom and Depositions***
- 10:45 A.M. Morning Break

Debra Fowler, Presiding

- 11:00 A.M. **Ivy L. Nowinski**
Condon & Forsyth LLP – ***Air Carrier Litigation Update Montreal Convention – Article 20***
- 11:30 A.M. **Camille Castillo**
FAA – ***“Help Us Help You Get That Form Filled Out”: How to increase your chances of successfully presenting your federal tort claim using the SF-95 for possible administrative settlement***
- 12:00 P.M. Luncheon
- 12:15 P.M. Luncheon Speaker **Ed Bolen**
NBAA – ***Topic: Impact of Reauthorization Act***
- Raffle sponsored by ESI

AFTERNOON SESSION

Garrett Pendleton, Presiding

- 1:15 P.M. Panel: **Effective Mediation of Aviation Claims**
Moderator: **Mark Tweedy** – Mark Tweedy Mediation+Arbitration Ltd.
Panelists: **Michael Dery** – Alexander Holburn Beaudin+Lang LLP
Nicolas Drolet – Air Canada
Joe Fiorante – CFM Lawyers LLP
Paul Graham – Global Aerospace Underwriting Managers (Canada) Ltd.
- 2:15 P.M. **Landon Francois**
Wright Close Barger & Guzman, LLP – ***Operational Limitations: Navigating Private Remedies and the ACAA***
- 3:00 P.M. Afternoon Break

Ladd Sanger, Presiding

- 3:15 P.M. Panel: **General Counsel**
Moderator: **Tracy Morris, Esq.** – Starr Adjustment Services, Inc.
Panelists: **Chris Brady** – Air Methods
Peter Farley – Precision Aviation Group
Tonya Holt – G2 Secure Staff, L.L.C.
Laura Overton – Allegiant Airlines
- 4:15 P.M. Panel: **Ethics in Mediation: Considerations for Neutrals and Advocates**
Moderator: **Rick Alimonti** – Alimonti Law Offices & Mediation Services
Mediator: **Mike Siboni** – Siboni Law Group
Panelists: **Natalie Deneen Cox** – Clyde & Co US LLP
Stuart R. Fraenkel – Nelson & Fraenkel LLP
Michael Page, Esq. – Allianz Commercial
- 5:15 P.M. **Ladd Sanger**
Closing Remarks

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SCHOLARSHIP SPONSORS

International Aerospace Womens Association – Leesburg, Virginia

EXHIBITORS

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Biodynamic Research Corporation (BRC) – San Antonio, Texas
ESi – Seattle, Washington
Habersham Aviation Consulting, LLC – Atlanta, Georgia
Rimkus – Phoenix, Arizona
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

2026 SPEAKERS

ALIMONTI, RICK

Alimonti Law Offices, PC – *Valhalla, New York*

BOLEN, ED

NBAA – *Washington, D.C.*

BRADY, CHRISTOPHER

Air Methods – *Denver, Colorado*

GASTILLO, CAMILLE

FAA – *Brooklyn, New York*

CHATMAN, CARLISS

SMU – *Dallas, Texas*

CHUPP, DON

Fireside Partners Inc. – *Dover, Delaware*

COX, NATALIE DENEEN

Clyde & Co US LLP – *New York, New York*

CREAMER, STEPHEN

ATCA – *Alexandria, Virginia*

DERY, MICHAEL

Alexander Holburn Beaudin+Lang LLP – *Vancouver, BC, Canada*

DOWNEY, DAVID

Downey Aviation Services – *Southlake, Texas*

DROLET, NICOLAS

Air Canada – *Toronto, Quebec, Canada*

DURKIN, KEVIN

Clifford Law Offices – *Chicago, Illinois*

FARLEY, PETER

Precision Aviation Group – *Atlanta, Georgia*

FIORANTE, JOE

CFM Lawyers LLP – *Vancouver, BC, Canada*

FRAENKEL, STUART R.

Nelson & Fraenkel LLP – *Los Angeles, California*

FRANCOIS, LANDON

Wright Close Barger & Guzman, LLP – *Houston, Texas*

FUSCUS, DAVID

Xenophon Strategies, Inc. – *Washington, D.C.*

GAINES, DARREN

Fly Vector LLC – *Spring Hill, Florida*

GRAHAM, PAUL

Global Aerospace Underwriting – *Vancouver, BC, Canada*

GREEN, JUSTIN

Kreindler & Kreindler LLP – *New York, New York*

GRICKS, THOMAS

Opentext – *Irwin, Pennsylvania*

HOLT, TONYA

G2 Secure Staff, L.L.C. – *Plano, Texas*

JARREAU, STEVEN

U.S. Department of Justice – *Washington, D.C.*

KIRSCH, STEVEN

U.S. Department of Justice – *Washington, D.C.*

LABOVE, JOCELYN

Jocelyn LaBove, PLLC – *Houston, Texas*

LANDER, GREG S.

Coats Aviation Law, P.C. – *The Woodlands, Texas*

LIBASSI, ED

A&P Aviation Consulting, Inc. – *Ronkonkoma, New York*

MAHONEY, KEVIN

Kreindler & Kreindler LLP – *New York, New York*

MARTINEZ, MATT

Cooley LLP – *San Diego, California*

MILLS, JERROD

U.S. Legal Support – *Tampa, Florida*

MIRANDA, ROBERTA

Marsh LLC – *New York, New York*

MORRIS, ESQ., TRACY

Starr Adjustment Services, Inc. – *Atlanta, Georgia*

MURPHY, ESQ., ANTHONY

Global Aerospace, Inc. – *Morris Plains, New Jersey*

NGUYEN, HOA

Troutman Pepper Locke LLP – *Dallas, Texas*

NOWINSKI, IVY L.

Condon & Forsyth LLP – *Sacramento, California*

ORTIZ, ESQ., SHERRY J.

Gallagher Global Aerospace – *New York, New York*

OVERTON, LAURA

Allegiant Travel Company – *Las Vegas, Nevada*

PAGE, ESQ., MICHAEL

Allianz Commercial – *Alpharetta, Georgia*

PATTON, RODNEY

U.S. Department of Justice – *Washington, D.C.*

PENDLETON, GARRETT

Starr Adjustment Services, Inc. – *Atlanta, Georgia*

QUINN, KEN

Clyde & Co LLP – *Washington, D.C.*

RYAN, KERI

AXA XL – *New York, New York*

SCHMEER, LEE

Victor Rane – *Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

SIBONI, MICHAEL

Siboni Law Group – *Ocala, Florida*

STERN, JONATHAN

Victor Rane – *Washington, D.C.*

TAYLOR, MEG

Delta Air Lines, Inc. – *Clarksville, Tennessee*

TETREAULT, MIKE

Cooley LLP – *San Diego, California*

TWEEDY, MARK

Mark Tweedy Mediation+Arbitration Ltd. – *Vancouver, BC Canada*

VALLACH, GLENN

USAIG – *New York, New York*

WORTHY, MICA

Cranfill Sumner LLP – *Charlotte, North Carolina*

SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATION INFORMATION

SMU Air Law Symposium

The 60th Annual SMU Air Law Symposium will be held Tuesday, March 31 – Wednesday, April 1, 2026.

Register online at <https://events.smu.edu/22GOk5> 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 6, 2026**)

\$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

60th ANNUAL SMU AIR LAW SYMPOSIUM, March 31-April 1, 2026

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-2026>.

THESE RATES ARE GUARANTEED ONLY UNTIL MARCH 9, 2026 AT 5:00 P.M. C.D.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 9, 2026 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>.

LOCATION: The 60th 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-2026>. The special rate will end at 5:00 pm C.D.T. on **March 9, 2026** or until rooms run out.

GROUND TRANSPORTATION: Discounted rental car rates are available through Avis Car Rental 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 at Avis using this code and the discount code will be automatically placed in the reservation detail or reach Avis directly at 1 (800) 331-1600. The Budget Customer Discount Number assigned to the SMU Air Law Symposium is B197864. To receive discounted car rental rates, you may book online as usual at Budget using this code and the discount code will be automatically placed in the reservation detail 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 6, 2026**. Registrations can be done at <https://events.smu.edu/22GOk5>.

After **March 6, 2026**, the registration fee is **\$545** per person at the door.

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 can cancel via their confirmation email by clicking the link, "View or modify your registration". Through **March 10, 2026**, a full refund of the registration fee paid will be given and no materials will be sent. After **March 10, 2026**, 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 60th 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 digital symposium materials as a part of the registration fee. Those registrants also wanting hard copies may purchase a hard copy book for \$50. Those who are unable to attend the Symposium may purchase copies of the symposium materials for \$100 to be mailed to them. Those registering after the Early Bird Registration date who desire a hard copy book of the materials will be sent their copy in the mail after the event. Please go to our registration website <https://events.smu.edu/22GOk5>, there will be a link to purchase the symposium materials there. You may also email jalcals@smu.edu or call (214) 768-2570 to order.

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TUESDAY, MARCH 31 – WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2026

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EARLY REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MARCH 6, 2026

REGISTER: [HTTPS://EVENTS.SMU.EDU/2260K5](https://events.smu.edu/2260k5)