



# 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 – *The Rule of Law, the Law of Perception and the  
Definition of Safety*

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. **Jerrold 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 – *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  
**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

# 2026 SPONSORS

## PLATINUM LEVEL SPONSORS

**Payne Mitchell Ramsey, LLP** – Dallas, Texas  
**Robb & Robb LLC** – Kansas City, Missouri  
**Slack Davis Sanger LLP** – Dallas, Texas

## GOLD LEVEL SPONSORS

**Clifford Law Offices, PC** – Chicago, Illinois  
**Condon & Forsyth LLP** – New York, New York  
**Cooley LLP** – San Diego, California  
**Kreindler & Kreindler LLP** – New York, New York  
**Structured Annuities, LLC** – Fort Worth, Texas  
**Worthe Hanson Worthe & Kaskiw, LLP** – Santa Ana, California

## SILVER LEVEL SPONSORS

**Anderson & Riddle LLP** – Fort Worth, Texas  
**Cantey Hanger LLP** – Fort Worth, Texas  
**Clyde & Co US LLP**  
**Devers Miska Law** – Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania  
**Hicks Davis Wynn, P.C.** – Houston, Texas  
**Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP** – Chicago, Illinois  
**Jackson Walker LLP** – Dallas, Texas  
**Mozley, Finlayson & Loggins, LLP** – Atlanta, Georgia  
**Podhurst Orseck, P.A.** – Coral Gables, Florida  
**Spohrer Dodd Trial Attorneys** – Jacksonville, Florida  
**Victor Rane** – Beverly Hills, California

## BRONZE LEVEL SPONSORS

**Biodynamic Research Corporation (BRC)** – San Antonio, Texas  
**Blue Air Law PLLC** – Dallas, Texas  
**Coats Aviation Law, P.C.** – The Woodlands, Texas  
**Evans | Petree PC** – Memphis, Tennessee  
**Martinez Ritorto & Maragoudakis, PC** – New York, New York  
**Searcy Denney Scarola Barnhart and Shipley, P.A.** – West Palm Beach, Florida  
**Shackelford, McKinley & Norton, LLP** – Dallas, Texas  
**Stinson LLP** – Wichita, Kansas  
**Stokes Lawrence, P.S.** – Seattle, Washington  
**Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP** – Charlotte, North Carolina

## SCHOLARSHIP SPONSORS

**International Aerospace Womens Association** – Leesburg, Virginia

## EXHIBITORS

**A&P Aviation Consulting, Inc.** – Ronkonkoma, New York  
**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 – *Montreal, 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 –  
*Toronto, Ontario, Canada*

### **GREEN, JUSTIN**

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

### **GRICKS, THOMAS**

Opentext – *Irwin, Pennsylvania*

### **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*

### **VERTON, 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 – *Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

### **SIBONI, MICHAEL**

Siboni Law Group – *Ocala, Florida*

### **STERN, JONATHAN**

Victor Rane – *Washington, D.C.*

### **TAYLOR, MEG**

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

### **TETREAU, 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](mailto: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.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:jalcals@smu.edu) or call (214) 768-2570 to order.

## 60th Annual SMU Air Law Symposium

TUESDAY, MARCH 31 – WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2026

### SYMPOSIUM BOARD OF ADVISORS

**Ladd C. Sanger**, Member

Slack Davis Sanger LLP – *Dallas, Texas*

**Pamela C. Hicks**, Member

Hicks Davis Wynn, P.C. – *Houston, Texas*

**Debra D. Fowler**, Member

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

**Garrett L. Pendleton**, Member

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

**William V. O'Connor**, Member

Cooley LLP – *San Diego, California*

### SYMPOSIUM BOARD OF EDITORS

**Claire Konerza**

Symposium Coordinating Editor

**Christine Lane**

Symposium CLE Editor

**Andrew Welch**

Symposium Speakers Editor

**Rex Poole**

Symposium Technology Editor

Journal of Air Law and Commerce  
Southern Methodist University  
Dedman School of Law  
P.O. Box 750116  
Dallas, Texas 75275-0116  
(214) 768-2570

Non Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Southern Methodist  
University



EARLY REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MARCH 6, 2026

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