



Journal of Air Law and Commerce
Presents
60th Annual SMU Air Law Symposium
March 31-April 1, 2026

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

MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2026

- 6:00 pm-9:00 pm Walk-in / Late Registration only
- 6:00 pm-8:00 pm Welcome Reception – Lake Highlands Room (Lake Level floor)

TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2026

- 7:15 am Registration / CLE check-in
Continental Breakfast

MORNING SESSION

Ladd Sanger, Presiding

- 8:00 am Welcoming Remarks
- 8:15 am **Matt Martinez**
Mike Tetreault
Cooley LLP – *Recent Developments in Aviation Law*
- 9:15 am **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 am Morning Break

Pam Hicks, Presiding

- 10:00 am **Darren Gaines**
Fly Vector LLC
Jon Stern
Victor Rane – *Two Air Traffic Controllers Share What You May Not Want to Hear*



- 10:30 am **Kevin Mahoney**
Kreindler & Kreindler LLP – *Topic: TBD*
- 11:00 am **Jocelyn LaBove**
Jocelyn Y. LaBove, PLLC – *Flight Plan for Success: An Introduction to Airport Law* (tentative)
- 11:30 am Luncheon
- 12:00 pm **Stephen Creamer**
ATCA – *Topic: TBD*
- Presentation of the 23rd Annual International Aerospace Womens Association Scholarship

AFTERNOON SESSION

Garrett Pendleton, Presiding

- 1:15 pm 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 pm **Tom Gricks**
OpenText
Lee Schmeer
Victor Rane – *Topic: AI*
- 2: 45 pm Afternoon Break

Bill O'Connor, Presiding

- 3:00 pm **Mica Worthy**
Cranfill Sumner LLP – *Got Space Junk? Cosmic Liability When the Sky is Falling*
- 3:30 pm **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 pm **Kevin Durkin**
Clifford Law Offices – *Update on Boeing Max Litigation*
- 4:30 pm **Cyndi Devers**
Mike Miska
Devers Miska Law – *Fume Events*
- 5:30 pm **Bill O’Connor**
Closing Remarks
- 5:35 pm Evening Reception

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2026

- 7:30 am Registration / CLE check-in
Continental Breakfast

MORNING SESSION

Pam Hicks, Presiding

- 8:15 am 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 am **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 am **Carliss Chatman**
SMU, Dedman School of Law – ***Topic: Director of Board and Office Oversight on Aviation Safety and Compliance***
- 10:15 am **Jerrod Mills**
U.S. Legal Support – ***Technology in the Courtroom and Depositions***
- 10:45 am **Morning Break**

Debra Fowler, Presiding

- 11:00 am **Ivy L. Nowinski**
Condon & Forsyth LLP – ***Topic: Air carrier Litigation***
- 11:30 am **Camille Castillo**
FAA – ***Topic: Administrative Claims***



12:00 pm Luncheon

12:30 pm Keynote speaker **Ed Bolen**
NBAA – *Topic: Impact of Reauthorization Act*

Raffle sponsored by ESi

AFTERNOON SESSION

Garrett Pendleton, Presiding

1:15 pm 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 pm **Landon Francois**
Wright Close & Barger, LLP – *Operational Limitations: Navigating Private Remedies Under the ACAA*

3:00 pm Afternoon Break

Ladd Sanger, Presiding

3:15 pm 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 pm Panel: **Mediation Ethics**
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 pm **Ladd Sanger**
Closing Remarks

