



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 – *Air Traffic Control Law in the United States: An Overview of Regulation, Litigation, and Liability for the Provision of Air Traffic Control Services*



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| 10:30 am | Kevin Mahoney Kreindler & Kreindler LLP – <i>Lightning Strikes and Ramp Worker Safety</i> |
| 11:00 am | Jocelyn LaBove Jocelyn Y. LaBove, PLLC – <i>Flight Plan for Success: An Introduction to Airport Law</i> |
| 11:30 am | Luncheon |
| 12:00 pm | Stephen Creamer ATCA – <i>Topic: TBD</i> |
| | Presentation of the 23 rd Annual International Aerospace Womens Association Scholarship |

AFTERNOON SESSION

Garrett Pendleton, Presiding

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| 1:15 pm | Panel: <i>Anatomy of an Accident: From Crisis to Litigation Management</i> 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 – <i>Don't Fly Solo in Aviation Litigation – Trust But Verify Your (GenAI) CoPilot...Protegé...CoCounsel</i> |
| 2: 45 pm | Afternoon Break |

Bill O'Connor, Presiding

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| 3:00 pm | Mica Worthy Cranfill Sumner LLP – <i>Got Space Junk? Cosmic Liability When Sky is Falling</i> |
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| 3:30 pm | David Downey Downey Aviation Services Hoa Nguyen Troutman Pepper Locke LLP – <i>Speaking the Same Language: An Expert's Guide on How to Work Effectively with Your Experts in Aviation Product Liability Cases</i> |
| 4:00 pm | Kevin Durkin Clifford Law Offices – <i>Update on Boeing Max Litigation</i> |
| 4:30 pm | Greg S. Lander Coats Aviation Law, PC – <i>See and Avoid – Illegal Charter</i> |
| 5:30 pm | Bill O'Connor Closing Remarks |
| 5:35 pm | Evening Reception |

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2026

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| 7:30 am | Registration / CLE check-in Continental Breakfast |
| <u>MORNING SESSION</u> | |
| <u>Pam Hicks, Presiding</u> | |
| 8:15 am | Panel: <i>Current Aviation Claims Issues</i> 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. – <i>Beyond Probable Cause: Leveraging Expert Insights in Aviation Accident Litigation and How to Best Work with Expert Consultants</i> |
| 9:45 am | Carliss Chatman SMU, Dedman School of Law – <i>Flying Blind: Caremark, Catastrophic Risk, and Corporate Governance After Boeing</i> |
| 10:15 am | Jerrod Mills U.S. Legal Support – <i>Technology in the Courtroom and Depositions</i> |
| 10:45 am | Morning Break |



Debra Fowler, Presiding

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| 11:00 am | Ivy L. Nowinski Condon & Forsyth LLP – <i>Air Carrier Litigation Update Montreal Convention - Article 20</i> |
| 11:30 am | Camille Castillo FAA – <i>“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.</i> |
| 12:00 pm | Luncheon |
| 12:15 pm | Keynote speaker Ed Bolen NBAA – <i>Topic: Impact of Reauthorization Act</i> |
| | Raffle sponsored by ESi |

AFTERNOON SESSION

Garrett Pendleton, Presiding

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| 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 & Guzman, LLP – <i>Operational Limitations: Navigating Private Remedies and the ACAA</i> |
| 3:00 pm | Afternoon Break |

Ladd Sanger, Presiding

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| 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 |
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4:15 pm

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 pm

Ladd Sanger

Closing Remarks

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