



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*



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

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

11:30 am Luncheon

12:00 pm 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 pm Panel: *Anatomy of an Accident: From Crisis to Litigation
Management*

Moderator: **Ken Quinn** – Clyde & Co LLP

Panelists: **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 – *Don't Fly Solo in Aviation Litigation – Trust But
Verify Your (GenAI) CoPilot...Protegé...CoCounsel*

2: 45 pm Afternoon Break

Bill O'Connor, Presiding

3:00 pm **Mica Worthy**
Cranfill Sumner LLP – *Got Space Junk? Cosmic Liability When
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 **Greg S. Lander**
Coats Aviation Law, PC – *See and Avoid – Illegal Charter*
- 5:30 pm **Bill O’Connor**
Closing Remarks
- 5:35 pm Evening Reception – Mandalay Ballroom

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 – *Flying Blind: Caremark, Catastrophic Risk, and Corporate Governance After Boeing*
- 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 – *Air Carrier Litigation Update Montreal Convention – Article 20*

11:30 am **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 pm Luncheon

12:15 pm Luncheon speaker **Ed Bolen**
NBAA – *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 & Guzman, LLP – *Operational Limitations: Navigating Private Remedies and 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
Laura Overton – Allegiant Airlines



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

