
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: **Clyde & Co LLP**
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*

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

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