



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

Debra Fowler, Presiding

- 8:00 am **Ladd Sanger**
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
Lauren Smith – Global Aerospace, Inc.
Steven Kirsch – U.S. Department of Justice
Joe Sedor – NTSB
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...Protégé...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, P.C. – *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: **Daniel Ferguson** – USAIG
Sherry J. Ortiz, Esq. – Gallagher Global Aerospace
Keri Ryan – AXA XL
- 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**
TrialQuest – *Trying your Case with the Latest Exhibits & Strategy for Developing Your Next Presentation*
- 10:45 am **Morning Break**



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

