

Aviation

Few law firms offer an aviation practice as skilled and far-reaching as Cozen O'Connor. Our dedicated team of experienced practitioners has deep, industry-specific knowledge of laws and norms, and provides regulatory, litigation, and business counsel to clients operating in every aviation field. Cozen O'Connor's leadership in the aviation space has been continually recognized by its peers: our aviation regulatory team is one of only three law firms in the United States ranked Band 1 nationally in *Chambers and Partners USA*, and we are often solicited by the most prestigious international law firms to serve as special aviation counsel on some of the most high-profile and consequential transactions.

Cozen O'Connor's aviation team represents major U.S. and non-U.S. passenger and cargo air carriers, airline trade associations, airports, aircraft, aviation products and component part manufacturers, aviation and aerospace insurers and reinsurers, repair facilities, and manufacturers and operators of uncrewed aircraft systems, i.e., drones. We also serve aircraft lessors, air travel distribution companies, air/ground express delivery companies, logistics specialists, and large corporations, banks, private equity funds, and other investors with aviation-related operations or transactions. With access to over 925 Cozen O'Connor attorneys in a wide variety of practice areas, we believe that aviation clients benefit from seamless, comprehensive representation through a single law firm.

The expansive range of skills, knowledge, and experience within the team includes:

- Regulatory
- Litigation
- Business Transactions

Regulatory. Cozen O'Connor attorneys advise clients on the full array of aviation laws and regulations, including those of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the Department of Homeland Security (including U.S. Customs & Border Protection (CBP) and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA)), and the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice. We assist our clients with maintaining regulatory compliance, appear on their behalf before executive branch agencies, and advocate before policymakers and regulators in Washington, D.C., to help our clients achieve their objectives.

Litigation. Cozen O'Connor handles wrongful death and personal injury claims, product liability and recalls, property damage claims, liability claims, coverage disputes, air accidents, and other claims under the Montreal and Warsaw conventions. Cozen O'Connor has earned its reputation as a top trial firm by successfully trying multimillion dollar aviation claims to verdict and aggressively negotiating favorable settlements on behalf of aviation clients.

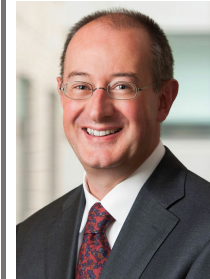
The firm also assists aviation clients in state and federal government investigations. Firm attorneys regularly represent subjects and third parties in federal investigations of all types, including mergers, civil antitrust, consumer protection, and criminal. The firm has a dedicated State Attorneys General practice that defends clients against state consumer protection, deceptive trade, and advertising claims.

Business Transactions. Cozen O'Connor regularly assists with major aviation-related transactions, including mergers, acquisitions, alliances, joint ventures, sale and leasing of aircraft, aviation financings, and aircraft management and ownership agreements. Our aviation team works closely with antitrust, energy, environment, finance and tax attorneys, all of whom have experience in the aviation industry, to support innovative cross-border deals and develop innovative solutions in order to maximize value for clients.



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Related Practice Areas

- Aviation Litigation
- Aviation Regulatory
- Family Office
- Infrastructure
- Product Regulatory & Compliance
- Transportation & Trade
- Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) / Drones

Our aviation team includes fellows in the prestigious American College of Trial Lawyers and the American Bar Foundation, a special assistant U.S. Attorney, a former Air Force Judge Advocate, an editor of leading treatises on aviation law in the United States and Europe, the editor-in-chief of *The Air & Space Lawyer*, a quarterly publication of the American Bar Association, a professor of aviation law at Georgetown University, and a member of the International Association of Women in Aviation.

Experience

Represented Alaska Airlines in its \$1.9 billion acquisition of Hawaiian Airlines. This representation included preparing the airlines' joint applications to the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) for approval of the transfer of Hawaiian Airlines' various DOT licenses and authorizations, as well as negotiating an unprecedented DOT-required agreement involving specific air service, competition, and consumer protection-related provisions.

Represented a company created by two high net worth individuals for the ownership of aircraft in its refinancing of a private jet with a new lender.

Secured an arbitration award of more than \$40 million for a leading aircraft manufacturer in an International Chamber of Commerce ("ICC") arbitration in New York against an Argentine air carrier for its alleged failure to fully pay for two aircraft pursuant to a conditional sale contract. In an effort to derail the arbitration, the defendant filed a Concurso Preventivo (a type of preliminary insolvency) in Argentina. This effort was defeated with favorable jurisdictional rulings from both the ICC tribunal and the Argentine courts, and the arbitration hearings were conducted remotely at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Represented a French aircraft manufacturer as lessor of five cargo aircraft and in the creation of a trust structure for the company's U.S. operations.

Represented Alaska Airlines in connection with its selection by the U.S. Department of Transportation as one of only eight U.S. airlines authorized to introduce scheduled air service to Havana, Cuba.

Represented Alaska Airlines in connection with its \$4 billion acquisition of Virgin America, including advising the airline on issues relating to the regulatory review of the transaction and the integration of the airlines' operations.

Represented Versa Capital Management in connection with its acquisition of Silver Airways, a commuter air carrier based in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida and Seaborne Airlines, based in Puerto Rico. We handled the aviation regulatory portion of the transactions, including pre-acquisition due diligence, and represented Versa in the carriers' post-transaction fitness reviews before the Department of Transportation.
