Aerospace

Our aerospace team offers a myriad of legal services to airplane and helicopter pilots, municipalities, airports, aircraft owners, operators, fixed base operators (FBOs), insurers, maintenance and manufacturing companies, brokers, buyers, sellers, lessees and lessors.

Our team advises clients on legislative affairs affecting the aerospace industry (including substantial input on both the original and amended Pilots' Bill of Rights), administrative rulemaking, regulatory compliance/enforcement concerns, business deals and aircraft transactions, liability protection, and litigation.

We have also been at the forefront of UAS/Drone issues, including regulatory exemptions, certificates of authorization, product development, operations, and defense of certificate actions and civil penalties.

The aerospace practice provides clients comprehensive, expanded services through the firm's various practice groups, including augmented assistance with equipment acquisition and financing, negotiating and documenting contracts, creditors' rights assistance, intellectual property, and labor and employment representation and counseling.

LITIGATION

Our litigation services include, but are not limited to, the defense of airports, commercial airlines, product manufacturers, pilots, operators, aircraft owners, certified flight instructors, and other aviation businesses in mass disaster, commercial disputes, employment claims, and complex tort cases. Service offerings in personal injury, wrongful death, product liability, commercial losses, and property damage matters include:

- General aviation crashes and accidents
- Air carrier aviation crashes and accidents
- Helicopter crashes and accidents
- Litigating aspects of the Warsaw Convention, the Montreal Convention, the Federal Aviation Regulations (FARs), and the General Aviation Revitalization Act (GARA)
- Representation in NTSB and FAA hearings and investigations
- Accident reconstruction
- On site crash investigation

PROFESSIONALS

Michael McGrory
Partner

Carol Borowski
Paralegal

Daniel L. Bray
Partner

Cody A. Marshall
Associate

Lorianna Anderson Young
Associate

- Crisis response and management
- Insurance coverage disputes

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

We provide counsel in the following FAA enforcement matters:

- Emergency revocation proceedings
- Civil penalties
- Certificate actions related to pilot training
- Airport operations
- Faulty record keeping
- Substance abuse
- Medical disqualification
- Environmental hazards
- Operational breaches
- Appeals of administrative decisions
- Employment disputes
- Drone/UAS operations

CONSULTING

Our attorneys advise clients on issues related to aircraft ownership and aviation business operations including:

- Negotiating, drafting, and/or analyzing contracts, operating agreements, leases, and other corporate agreements
- Identifying the best business structure for their needs, and assisting in incorporation
- Assisting product manufacturers with drafting and revising user and operator manuals and instructions
- Federal aviation regulation compliance
- Charter, FBO, and airport operations
- Labor and employment matters
- Tax issues
- Aircraft, equipment, and property purchases and sales
- FAA Certification
- Liability protection
- Employment and training

- Drone/UAS operations

Experience

Defended an Airport in a High Profile Incident

Defended an International Component Part Manufacturer After a Helicopter Crash

Has Successfully Enforced Contractual Provisions for FBO's and Airports

Defense of a Cessna 421 Plane Crash

Defense of Cessna Citation in a Breach of Contract and Fraud Federal Jury Trial

Defended Various Claims Brought by a Disgruntled Airport Hangar Tenant

Defended an International Airline Accused of Defaulting on an Aircraft Sale and Finance Agreement

Advised an International Equipment Manufacturer on Corporate and Employment Advice

Represented a Large Aircraft Association Against the FAA

Successfully Defended an Owner and FBO at Trial

Represented a Regional Bank that Lends Money to Commercial Entities for the Purchase of Commercial Aircraft

Firm News

Several Amundsen Davis Service Groups Named in the 2026 Edition of Best Law Firms®
Firm News, November 6, 2025

Congratulations to Amundsen Davis Attorneys Included on 2025 Illinois Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists
Firm News, January 21, 2025

Cody A. Marshall Joins Amundsen Davis
Firm News, November 25, 2024

Congratulations to Amundsen Davis Attorneys Included on the 2024 Wisconsin Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists
Firm News, November 14, 2024

Several Amundsen Davis Service Groups Named in the 2025 Edition of Best Law Firms®
Firm News, November 7, 2024

93 Amundsen Davis Attorneys Recognized by Best Lawyers® in 2025 in America
Firm News, August 15, 2024

Amundsen Davis Attorneys Included in the 2024 Illinois Super Lawyers and Rising Stars List
Firm News, January 25, 2024

Mike McGrory Selected to the 2023 Irish Legal 100
Firm News, *Irish Legal 100*, October 2023

77 Amundsen Davis Attorneys Recognized by Best Lawyers® in 2024 in America
Firm News, August 17, 2023

Lorianna Anderson Young Joins Amundsen Davis Aerospace Service Group
Firm News, July 17, 2023

Amundsen Davis Attorneys Included in the 2023 Illinois Super Lawyers and Rising Stars List
Firm News, *Amundsen Davis*, January 23, 2023

36 Amundsen Davis Attorneys Recognized by *Best Lawyers in America© 2023*
Firm News, August 18, 2022

Mike McGrory Selected as Chair for Aviation Insurance Association's Attorney Division for an Additional Term
Firm News, May 10, 2022

25 Amundsen Davis Attorneys Included on 2022 Illinois Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists
Firm News, January 28, 2022

22 Amundsen Davis Attorneys Included on 2021 Illinois Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists
Firm News, January 29, 2021

19 Amundsen Davis Attorneys Included on 2020 Illinois Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists
Firm News, January 29, 2020

17 Amundsen Davis Attorneys Included on 2019 Illinois Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists
Firm News, January 24, 2019

Amundsen Davis Ranks on Crain's Chicago Business' 2018 Largest Law Firms List
Crain's Chicago Business, October 25, 2018

5 Amundsen Davis Attorneys Included on 2018 Indiana Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists
Firm News, February 20, 2018

Amundsen Davis Ranks on Crain's Chicago Business' Largest Law Firms List
Crain's Chicago Business, September 15, 2017

24 Amundsen Davis Attorneys Included on 2017 Illinois Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists
Firm News, January 13, 2017

Amundsen Davis Ranks on Crain's Chicago Business' Chicago Largest Law Firms List
Firm News, *Crain's Chicago Business*, September 10, 2016

In the Media

Alan Farkas Recognized with the 2022 EAA Chairman's Award
Media Mention, *EAA*, July 27, 2022

Old Republic's Liability Policy Not 'Draconian,' Ill. Court Says – *Law360* Article Mentions Alan Farkas, Mike Resis, and Ellen Green
Media Mention, *Law360*, October 4, 2021

New Trends in Law -- Michael McGrory Featured in *DRI's* Podcast
Media Mention, *DRI* , September 2019

Alan Farkas Quoted in *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin* About Emergency Landing on Lakeshore Drive
Media Mention, *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin*, August 3, 2018

Bloomberg BNA Interviews Alan Farkas in "Airsick: Flight Crews Venting in Court About Toxic Fumes"
Media Mention, *Bloomberg BNA*, June 29, 2017

Widow's Suit Over Plane Crash Allowed to Proceed - Chicago Daily Law Bulletin Mentions Mike McGrory and Alan Farkas
Media Mention, *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin*, October 20, 2014

"Judge: Flight crash filings must cease," Mike McGrory Quoted in *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin*
Media Mention, *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin*, April 1, 2014

Aero-News Update: The Other Shoe Drops – EAA Files Brief in *EAA v FAA* Fee War
Media Mention, *Aero-News Network*, December 6, 2013

National Business Aviation Association Discusses Pilot's Bill of Rights with Commentary From Alan Farkas
Media Mention, *National Business Aviation Association*, September 2, 2013

Alerts

Pre-Judgment Interest Law Takes Effect July 1, 2021
Article, *Amundsen Davis Alert*, June 2, 2021

Liability Falls Out of Favor for Aircraft Owners
Amundsen Davis Aerospace Alert, May 18, 2018

The Final Nail in the Coffin for Private Lawsuits Under the ACAA?
Amundsen Davis Aerospace Alert, May 18, 2018

Attention All 134.5 Operators, Your FAA Inspector Is Coming
Amundsen Davis Aerospace Alert, November 17, 2017

The Dead Man's Act - Staying Alive and Well
Amundsen Davis Aerospace Alert, November 17, 2017

Attorney Admonished for *Ex Parte* Communications with Flight Attendants
Amundsen Davis Aerospace Alert, November 17, 2017

UAS Integration Program - Up And Running
Amundsen Davis Aerospace Alert, November 17, 2017

Forum Fiesta
Amundsen Davis Aerospace Alert, August 21, 2017

Bristol-Meyer Squibb: The Death of “Forum Shopping” or “Same Old-Same Old”
Amundsen Davis Aerospace Alert, August 21, 2017

What Did You Miss At Oshkosh 2017?
Amundsen Davis Aerospace Alert, August 21, 2017

The Course - Where Golf and Business Meet
Amundsen Davis Aerospace Alert, August 21, 2017

Lawsuit Over MH370 Not Likely to Survive Long
Amundsen Davis Aerospace Alert, March 17, 2017

Attorney Registers First Pilot's Bill of Rights Victory: Airman Back in the Air Within 60 Days
Amundsen Davis Aerospace Alert, February 10, 2017

Circumventing Carmack Amendment Preemption Via Violations to Federal Laws
Amundsen Davis Aerospace Alert, February 10, 2017

Surprise! Your "Independent Contractors" May Be Employees
Amundsen Davis Aerospace Alert, February 10, 2017

Thoughts on Drones: The View from the Bench
Amundsen Davis Aerospace Alert, November 30, 2016

Facing the FAA in Court (or, Whoever Has the Gold Makes the Rules)
Amundsen Davis Aerospace Alert , November 30, 2016

Drone Manufacturer Liability: the Hypothetical Case of the Professional Pitcher
Amundsen Davis Aerospace Alert, November 30, 2016

One Stoplight and Two Drones: Unmanned Aircraft in Small Town America
Amundsen Davis Aerospace Alert, November 2016

What Did You Miss at Oshkosh 2016?
Amundsen Davis Aerospace Alert, August 19, 2016

Pilot Warranty Clause Thwarts Coverage
Amundsen Davis Aerospace Alert, August 19, 2016

Weaponized UAS and Creepy Airline Passengers v. FAA
Amundsen Davis Aerospace Alert, August 19, 2016

Are Diminution in Value Damages Recoverable? Your Contract May Control
Amundsen Davis Aerospace Alert, August 19, 2016

Hazmat in the Mailroom?
Amundsen Davis Aerospace Alert, July 13, 2016

Airplane Mode Miscue Makes Mess - Montreal Convention Still Applies
Amundsen Davis Aerospace Alert, May 13, 2016

The Future Isn't What It Used to Be in Federal Court: Technology, Jurors Play Larger Role
Amundsen Davis Aerospace Alert, May 13, 2016

FAA Preemption – A New Chapter Is Being Written
Amundsen Davis Aerospace Alert, May 13, 2016

Supposed Settlement Shenanigans Spur New Suit
Amundsen Davis Aerospace Alert, May 13, 2016

We'll Stop Saying It When People Stop Doing It: Don't Lie to the FAA
Amundsen Davis Aerospace Alert, May 13, 2016

Long-Overdue Reforms Come To The Federal Rules
Amundsen Davis Aerospace Alert, February 15, 2016

Super Bowl, No Drone Zone – What's Next?
Amundsen Davis Aerospace Alert, February 15, 2016

Belated Bag Beef Preempted
Amundsen Davis Aerospace Alert, February 15, 2016

U.S. Curtailing Cuba Air Travel Restrictions
Amundsen Davis Aerospace Alerts, February 15, 2016

Events

Addressing Naughty Actors on Aircraft
Speaking Engagement, 2024 Forum on Air & Space Annual Meeting & Conference; Huntington Beach, CA, September 20, 2024

Ethics and the Media: Best Practices for Aviation and Space Law Practitioners
Speaking Engagement, Aviation and Space Law Conference; Arlington, Virginia, October 27, 2023

Ethics and the Media: Best Practices for Aviation and Space Law Practitioners
Speaking Engagement, American Bar Association, Seminar; Arlington, VA, October 27, 2023

Sikkellee Saga Continues
Speaking Engagement, ABA National Institute on Aviation Litigation 2022, Webcast, June 9, 2022

A New Era: Prejudgment Interest in Illinois
Event, Amundsen Davis, Webcast, June 16, 2021

Claims From the Twilight Zone: Passengers, Airports, and Support Animals, Oh My!
Avicon 2018 Conference; Stevensville, MD, September 14, 2018

Patents, Avionics & Software
Experimental Aircraft Association AirVenture, Oshkosh, WI, July 25, 2018

Aviation and Litigation in Today's World—Ethical Issues in an Aviation Case
ABA Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Aviation and Space Law Committee Conference, October 19, 2017

Innovation Legal Toolbox: Identifying, Evaluating and Protecting Intellectual Property in the Aerospace Industry
Experimental Aircraft Association Annual Airventure Conference
Oshkosh, WI, July 27, 2017

The Road Ahead: Which Way to the Future?
Central Illinois Chapter of the CPCU Society, Seminar; Normal, IL, November 3, 2016

Aviation Insurance Coverage Issues in a Difficult Market: Viewpoints from Manufacturers, Airlines, and Insurers
Defense Research Institute, Seminar; Boston, Massachusetts, October 20, 2016

Aviation Lending: Is It Right for Your Bank?
Amundsen Davis, Webinar, October 20, 2016

Fundamentals of Buying and Operating Business Aircraft
Amundsen Davis, Seminar, Chicago, IL, September 20, 2016

Defending and Managing Aviation Claims and Litigation
Carlton Hotel, New York, June 27, 2016

Current Issues in Aviation Claim Resolution
Aviation Insurance Association; 2016 Annual Conference, Miami, Florida, April 30, 2016 - May 3, 2016

Published Works

A Young Attorney's Journey From Prosecutor to Aviation Litigator
Publication, *AIA Magazine - The Binder*, Spring 2024

Continuing Legal Education at AIA 2024
Publication, *AIA Magazine - The Binder*, Spring 2024

Is It Ok to Come Out Now?
AIA Magazine- The Binder, Summer 2021

The Viability of the FSIA in an Evolving Aviation Industry
DRI's For the Defense, December 2016