

Brandt R. Madsen

Chicago, IL

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SPECIAL COUNSEL

Overview

Brandt has been representing clients in all facets of the dynamic aerospace industry for over 25 years, matching their innovation with his own creative solutions. As a member of the firm's Aerospace Industry Group, he provides services in corporate consultation, administrative and regulatory issues, insurance coverage and litigation. Brandt focuses on providing legal support services to the corporate aviation sector. Also, as the aerospace industry embraces the development of unmanned aerial systems [UAS], Brandt assists clients addressing a new set of issues arising from this emerging technology.

Brandt provides general counsel services for a number of aviation startups. He has helped marshal inventors' ideas from concept to implementation throughout the commercial fleet. His advice includes negotiations with regulators and corporate partners, coordination of Intellectual Property issues and drafting of licenses, service agreements, and grants. In addition, Brandt has coordinated the administrative compliance and interfaced with regulators. Brandt also serves as an advisor to aviation manufacturers and service industry entities on a wide variety of commercial matters including but not limited to aircraft transactions, leases, financing agreements and outside general counsel services.

Brandt is an experienced trial attorney, and has brought dozens of cases to trial and through appeal, representing municipalities, corporations, small businesses and individuals. Brandt also has an active administrative practice, representing clients before administrative agencies, such as the FAA, FTC, NTSB, CFTC and the Department of Revenue. Brandt has been involved in many high profile air crash cases, successfully representing airport operators, air traffic controllers, operators and manufacturers. His aviation experience includes regulatory practice and working with the FAA and NTSB. Brandt represents airmen, corporate flight departments, air traffic controllers, airports, aircraft owners and operators, and FBOs (fixed base operators). He has also represented numerous airplane and helicopter pilots in enforcement actions brought against them by the FAA.

SERVICES

Aerospace

General Liability

Product Liability

EDUCATION

The John Marshall Law
School, J.D., 1988

Moot Court Executive Board,
1987-1988

Miami University, B.S., 1984

ADMISSIONS

Illinois

While Brandt finds great success in the courtroom, he is often able to resolve cases early in the litigation process via motions to dismiss or by negotiating settlement. In a recent high profile case, this meant keeping his client's name out of the national news while the matter resolved behind the scenes.

Outside the office, Brandt and his family work with an international relief agency that helps refugees assimilate to life in the Chicago area and a not for profit that empowers community renewal through neighborhood-based entrepreneurs. He has worked with a state program, which educates city and suburban kids on the business of working farms. He also provides pro bono legal services to organizations that provide assistance to Chicago's underserved communities.

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

Membership & Involvement

- Member: American Bar Association; Michigan Bar Association; Chicago Bar Association; Aviation Insurance Association; Cook County Mandatory Arbitration Program (Chairperson)
- Board of Directors: Chicago Area Business Aviation Association
- Adjunct Professor: Lewis University, Aviation Legislation

Honors

- Martindale-Hubbell AV® Preeminent™ rated
- Selected to the Illinois Super Lawyers list: 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2025
- Selected by the Leading Lawyers Network as a "Leading Lawyer" in aviation and transportation defense law
- Selected to *The Best Lawyers in America*® in Aviation Law: 2024, 2025, 2026

Firm News

130 Amundsen Davis Attorneys Recognized by Best Lawyers® in 2026 in America Firm News, August 21, 2025

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

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

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

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

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

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

17 Amundsen Davis Attorneys Included on 2016 Illinois Super Lawyers and 2016 Illinois Rising Stars Lists
Firm News, January 8, 2016

Illinois Super Lawyers & Illinois Rising Stars Names 17 Amundsen Davis Attorneys to 2015 List
Firm News, January 12, 2015

Illinois Super Lawyers & Illinois Rising Stars Names 12 Amundsen Davis Attorneys to 2013 List
January 3, 2013

Alerts

UAS Integration Program - Up And Running

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Bristol-Meyer Squibb: The Death of "Forum Shopping" or "Same Old-Same Old"

Attorney Registers First Pilot's Bill of Rights Victory: Airman Back in the Air Within 60 Days

Thoughts on Drones: The View from the Bench

FAA Preemption – A New Chapter Is Being Written

Deadline Approaching to Comply with Drone Registration

Super Bowl, No Drone Zone – What's Next?

Speaking Engagements

Construction Law Power Seminar: Critical Legal Updates Impacting the Construction Industry in 2016

Amundsen Davis, Lombard, IL, February 11, 2016

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