

Michael McGrory

Chicago, IL

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PARTNER

Overview

Mike has a unique ability to stay focused and even-keeled even when it may look to some like the sky is falling. He takes a thoughtful and direct approach to advising clients in the areas of aviation and aerospace law, commercial litigation, regulatory compliance, and the cannabis industry.

After serving as a Cook County Assistant State's Attorney, Mike entered private practice. As chair of the firm's Aerospace Service Group, he has represented airlines, airports, aircraft owners and manufacturers in business disputes and lawsuits arising out of accidents. His non-aviation work involves advising businesses, governmental entities, insurers and insurance brokers in commercial and tort litigation.

Mike founded the firm's cannabis practice in 2013 with the advent of Illinois' medical cannabis program. Amundsen Davis was one of the first full-service law firms in the Midwest to serve the cannabis industry, and it remains a leader. Mike continues to serve as co-chair, providing counsel to all variety of businesses operating in the cannabis industry.

Mike has held a variety of leadership positions in bar and industry organizations, and has also demonstrated great commitment to his community. He is particularly passionate about his work on the board of directors for Mental Health America of Illinois, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving treatment and care available to those who suffer from mental and emotional disorders.

Experience

Defense of a Cessna 421 Plane Crash

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

SERVICES

Aerospace

Cannabis, CBD & Hemp

Product Liability

Public Entities

EDUCATION

DePaul University College of Law, J.D., 2003

Eastern Illinois University, B.A., 1999

ADMISSIONS

Illinois

Represented Clients in New Retail Cannabis Licenses in Illinois When Adult Use Recreational Cannabis Became Legal

Represented a Large Aircraft Association Against the FAA

Successfully Defended an Owner and FBO at Trial

Defended a Police Department and Municipality Against Executive Force, Forcible Entry and A Search and Seizure Charge

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 Two Police Officers Accused of False Arrest

Membership & Involvement

- Director, Attorney Division: Aviation Insurance Association
- Member: Education Committee: Aviation Insurance Association; Federal Trial Bar; Chicago Bar Association; Education Committee and Content Committee; Illinois Cannabis Bar Association; Illinois Women in Cannabis; Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel
- Chair: Chicago Bar Association, Aviation Law Committee, 2014-2015
- Defense Research Institute: Aviation Law Committee Program Chair, 2017-2019; Aviation Law Committee Publications Chair, 2013-2015; Aviation Law Committee Membership Chair, 2012-2013; Aviation Law Committee Expert Witness Chair, 2011-2012
- Commissioner: Village of Homewood Board of Fire and Police Commissioners, 2009-2014
- Commissioner: Village of Homewood Community Relations Commission, 2008-2009
- Board of Directors: Mental Health America of Illinois
- Homewood-Flossmoor Soccer Club, Coach

Honors

- Recognized as "40 Illinois Attorney Under 40 to Watch" by the Law Bulletin in 2014
- Selected to the Illinois Super Lawyers list: 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026
- Selected to the Illinois Super Lawyers "Rising Stars" list: 2015, 2016

- Selected to *The Best Lawyers in America*® in Aviation Law: 2025, 2026
- Selected to the 2023 Irish Legal 100
- Leadership Award, Defense Research Institute, 2019

Firm News

Congratulations to Amundsen Davis's 2026 Illinois Super Lawyers and Rising Stars!

Firm News, January 21, 2026

130 Amundsen Davis Attorneys Recognized by Best Lawyers® in 2026 in America

Firm News, August 21, 2025

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

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

Amundsen Davis Attorneys Included in the 2023 Illinois Super Lawyers and Rising Stars List

Firm News, *Amundsen Davis*, January 23, 2023

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

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

Dispensaries Confident Protections For Budding Pot Industry Will Stay
Chicago Daily Law Bulletin, January 11, 2018

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

Changing Minds, Changing Lives - Loyola Magazine Highlights Mike McGrory's Community Involvement
Loyola Magazine, Summer 2015

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

Michael McGrory Selected as One of the 40 Attorneys Under 40 to Watch in Illinois By Law Bulletin Publishing Company
December 2014

In the Media

Michael McGrory Quoted in *Grown In*, Discussing the Rise of a Holding Company in a Burgeoning Cannabis Industry

"The delay is causing unexpected expenses..." *Grown In* Quotes Michael McGrory on Cannabis Dispensary Licenses

Michael McGrory Quoted in *Crain's Chicago Business* Article, "Law Firms Getting Over Their Fear of Cannabis"

New Trends in Law -- Michael McGrory Featured in *DRI's* Podcast

The Defense Research Institute Covers Michael McGrory's and Julie Proscia's Victory

The Legalities of Prescribing Medical Marijuana – Physicians Practice Quotes Michael McGrory

Illinois Medical Marijuana Regulations – Michael McGrory Interviewed by Professional Solutions Insurance Company

Widow's Suit Over Plane Crash Allowed to Proceed - Chicago Daily Law Bulletin
Mentions Mike McGrory and Alan Farkas

"Judge: Flight crash filings must cease," Mike McGrory Quoted in *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin*

"The Gold Bell Rings for Mental Health" – Mike McGrory Featured in *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin*

Alerts

The Final Nail in the Coffin for Private Lawsuits Under the ACAA?

Social Media & Municipalities: A Roundtable with Our Municipal Attorneys

Attorney Admonished for *Ex Parte* Communications with Flight Attendants

Forum Fiesta

A Roundtable with Amundsen Davis's Municipal Attorneys

Surprise! Your "Independent Contractors" May Be Employees

Facing the FAA in Court (or, Whoever Has the Gold Makes the Rules)

Pilot Warranty Clause Thwarts Coverage

Weaponized UAS and Creepy Airline Passengers v. FAA

Supposed Settlement Shenanigans Spur New Suit

We'll Stop Saying It When People Stop Doing It: Don't Lie to the FAA

Uber Airmen Must Be Commercial Pilots

Belated Bag Beef Preempted

Speaking Engagements

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

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Sikkellee Saga Continues

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

Cannabis Law in Illinois: The Basics & Beyond

Illinois Institute of Continuing Legal Education, Webcast, October 21, 2021

Knowing and Mitigating the Risks of Entrusting Aircraft

Aviation Insurance Association, Webcast, August 5, 2021

The Legalization Landscape – Regulatory Compliance & Licensing

National Business Institute's Illinois Marijuana Business Law 2021, Webcast, July
26, 2021

When Compliance Fails: Defending Regulatory Enforcement Actions

DRI Cannabis Law Virtual Seminar, Webcast, September 17, 2020

Cannabis and Hemp Law and Practice in Illinois: The Nuts and Bolts

Pincus Professional Education; Chicago, IL, February 21, 2020

Know the Salient Points of Recent Marijuana Laws and Effectively Advise Your
Client

National Business Institute, Seminar; Oak Lawn, IL, December 19, 2019

Know the Salient Points of Recent Marijuana Laws and Effectively Advise Your
Clients

National Business Institute, Seminar; Northbrook, IL, December 16, 2019

Staying Above the Fray: How to Deal with Difficult Opponents

Chicago Bar Association; Seminar, December 4, 2019

The Impact of Legalization of Recreational Cannabis on Illinois Municipalities

IML Annual Conference; Chicago, IL, September 20, 2019

An Overview of the Illinois' Recreational Cannabis Program

Better Business Bureau, September 19, 2019

Doing Business with CANNABIS

Rockwell Beer Co.; St. Louis, MO, June 26, 2019

Safety in the Air Starts on the Ground

Chicago Area Business Aviation Association, Seminar; Oak Brook, IL, April 11,
2019

The Future of Medical Marijuana in Missouri: Dealing With the Disconnect
Between State & Federal Law

Event, Amundsen Davis, Webcast, September 18, 2018

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Claims From the Twilight Zone: Passengers, Airports, and Support Animals, Oh My!

Avicon 2018 Conference; Stevensville, MD, September 14, 2018

Medical Marijuana Law in Illinois

National Business Institute; Chicago, IL, June 28, 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

The Claims Association of Greater Chicago Annual Spring Seminar

CAGC, Seminar; Oak Brook, IL, April 13, 2017

The State of Cannabis Law in 2017 and Beyond

Chicago-Kent College of Law, Seminar; Chicago, IL, March 16, 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

Defending and Managing Aviation Claims and Litigation

Carlton Hotel, New York, June 27, 2016

Marijuana Update

Chicago Bar Association, Chicago, IL, May 25, 2016

Current Issues in Aviation Claim Resolution

Aviation Insurance Association; 2016 Annual Conference, Miami, Florida, April 30,
2016 - May 3, 2016

Medical Marijuana in Illinois: Legal Perspective

2016 Katie School/CPCU Symposium; Bloomington, IL, April 22, 2016

Insurance Issues with the Rise of Medical Marijuana

Association of Lloyd's Brokers, Chicago, IL, March 15, 2016

Issues in Claim Resolution

AViCON Aviation Claims Conference; RTI, Annapolis, MD, September 10, 2015

Key Legislation

Marijuana Investor Summit; Denver, CO, August 22, 2015

2015 My Compassion Cannabis Conference Medical Cannabis & Illinois Law
Educational Symposium

Chicago, IL, July 23, 2015

An Overview of the FAA's Proposed UAS Regulations
Chicago Bar Association, Aviation Law Committee, March 4, 2015

Published Works

Indemnity Provisions – Worth a Close Look
Publication, *EDM Today Magazine*, Summer 2024

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

Products Liability Practice 2023 Edition
Publication, *Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education*

Four Concerns for States Launching New Cannabis Programs
Publication, *USLAW Magazine*, Winter 2023

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

Defending Cannabis Regulatory Enforcement Actions
DRI's For the Defense, November 2020

Through the Thicket: Issues When Working in, or with, the Legal Cannabis Industry
USLAW Magazine, March 28, 2019

Reporting Best Practices: Making Your Client Look Good
DRI's The Voice Newsletter, November 14, 2018

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

Cannabis Business Owners: You Can Fight City Hall
Marijuana Investor News, March 23, 2016

Blog Posts

Illinois Expands Medical Marijuana Program in Response to Opioid Crisis
Cannabis Business Legal News, August 29, 2019

Missouri Says "Yes" to Medical Marijuana - What To Know Now
Cannabis Business Legal News, November 7, 2018

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