



Aviation & Aerospace

Resolving high-stakes, complex aviation disputes. That's how Hinshaw helps.

With decades of proven experience in the aviation and aerospace sector, we are the go-to legal team for high-profile and contentious aviation disputes. Our clients include stakeholders across the industry, such as domestic and international airline carriers, manufacturers, airports, helicopter companies, and insurers, just to name a few.

Our counsel encompasses the full range of aviation issues, including major loss, serious incidents, wrongful death disputes, putative class actions, and general commercial disputes, as well as non-contentious work, including regulation and corporate and finance matters.

Armed with a deep understanding of the opportunities and challenges of this highly regulated sector, we provide more effective advice and counsel to our clients and their insurers.

We also understand the technical side of aviation matters, in large part because our legal team—which includes pilots, a flight instructor, and other aviators—is active and engaged in the aviation industry. We speak your language and are ready to help you navigate any turbulence you encounter.

Primary Areas of Focus Include:

Sophisticated Defense Litigation

In the high-stakes and complex world of aviation and aerospace litigation, clients need advisors who understand the intricacies of sophisticated technology, the fundamentals of flight, and the nuances of multi-jurisdictional law. While negotiated settlements may be preferable under certain circumstances, businesses also need legal counsel capable of advancing defenses that significantly reduce liability exposure.

Our attorneys have tried cases across the country and served as lead and/or national defense counsel in jurisdictions around the world. We regularly handle contentious and complex issues that result from aviation accidents, including:

- **Wrongful death, property damage, personal injury, and negligence.** We defend clients against claims stemming from mishaps at and near airports and facilities across the United States, Europe, and South America.
- **Product liability.** We represent manufacturers in connection with alleged product defect litigation, FAA enforcement matters, and accident liability in individual suits and class actions.

Industry Area Contact

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Attorneys

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Min K. Kang
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Evan M. Kwarta
J. Gregory Lahr
Peter J. Lewis



- **Insurance coverage disputes:** We have significant experience defending insurers in coverage and liability disputes at every step, from declaratory judgment actions through trials and appeals.

Our counsel also extends to providing guidance on risk management and litigation prevention. This includes educational seminars and programs on legal updates and liability defense strategies, and best practices.

Regulatory and Compliance

Safety is a top priority for regulators — and for our clients. We advise businesses on pilot and aircraft certification, hazardous materials, environmental enforcement, and other regulatory issues heard before the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Together with experienced attorneys from across the firm, we also provide comprehensive counsel on international, federal, state, and local labor and employment, occupational health and safety, disability accommodation, and related laws and regulations.

Corporate and Finance

Aircraft and aviation facilities often involve highly sophisticated financing, purchase, sale and lease terms, as well as complex economic development and other tax incentives. We deliver effective guidance on a wide range of transactions, leases, and contracts, helping negotiate favorable deal terms and minimizing short- and long-term risk. We counsel clients on matters involving through-the-fence operations, hangar condominium developments, and airport access. We also help banks and financial institutions recover distressed aviation assets and obtain deficiency judgments, assist commercial operators in the implementation and enforcement of liens, and counsel aircraft owners and operators in the resolution of title liens.

News

[Three Hinshaw Partners Selected to Crain's Chicago 2024 Notable Women in Law](#)

February 20, 2024

[Hinshaw Elects Eleven New Partners in Seven Offices](#)

January 2, 2024

[Hinshaw Recognized as "Distinguished in Litigation" in BTI Consulting's Litigation Outlook 2024 Survey](#)

November 16, 2023

[Experienced Aviation Partner Evan Kwarta Joins Hinshaw in New York](#)

July 24, 2023

[2023 Edition of Chambers USA Recognizes Hinshaw for its Transportation, Insurance, and Financial Services Practices](#)

June 1, 2023

[Carol A. Lockwood](#)

[Brian T. Maye](#)

[Lisa M. Nysten](#)

[C. Kieffer Petree](#)

[Christopher J. Raistrick](#)

[James C. Sanders II](#)

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[Hinshaw Finalizes Adler Murphy & McQuillen LLP Deal in Chicago](#)
April 3, 2023

[Hinshaw Announces Adler Murphy & McQuillen LLP Will Join the Firm](#)
March 9, 2023

[Hinshaw Attorneys Jurman, Anderson, and Lewis Author Byline on Insurance Implications for Leased Aircraft Currently Seized by Russia](#)
September 8, 2022

[Russ Klingaman Explores Legal Landscape of the Aerospace Industry at iCNS 2020](#)
October 2, 2020

[Russ Klingaman Describes Wisconsin's New Aviation-Specific Mechanic's Lien Law in Midwest Flyer Magazine](#)
June 18, 2020

[Russ Klingaman Named Founding Member of the Board of Directors for Great Lakes Air Museum](#)
February 23, 2018

[Hinshaw's Russ Klingaman Cited in Wikipedia Article about Wright Brothers Patent War](#)
February 21, 2018

[Russ Klingaman Quoted in Law360 Article on the Next FAA Reauthorization Bill](#)
June 1, 2017

[Russ Klingaman Quoted in Article on Use of Drones in Eminent Domain Litigation](#)
August 25, 2016

[Russell Klingaman Discusses Recreational Drone Use Laws and Regulations With Consumers Digest](#)
August 25, 2016

[Russell Klingaman Provides Insights on FAA's New Landmark Commercial Drones Rules](#)
June 21, 2016

[Russ Klingaman Authors Article on the U.S. Senate's 2016 FAA Reauthorization Bill](#)
June 8, 2016

[Russell Klingaman Authors Article on Airports Dealing With Nearby Drone and UAS Operations](#)
May 31, 2016

[Russell Klingaman Featured Prominently in BizTimes Milwaukee Cover Story on Drones](#)
April 6, 2016

[Russell Klingaman Featured in Milwaukee Fox6 News Story on FAA's New Drone Registry](#)
December 21, 2015

[Russell Klingaman Discusses Drones and the Law With Milwaukee's Fox6 News](#)
November 16, 2015

[Russell Klingaman Quoted in Capital Times Article on the "Legal Gray Area" Involving Drones](#)
November 11, 2015

[Russell Klingaman and Thomas Schrimpf Discuss Drones and the Law](#)
September 1, 2015

[Russell Klingaman and Thomas Schrimpf Author Article on Homeowners' Insurance Coverage for Damage Done by UAS Owners' Recreational Drones](#)
August 4, 2015



Hinshaw's Russell Klingaman Elected as President of Lawyer Pilots Bar Association
August 4, 2014

Events

Michael McQuillen Presented at the Aviation Insurance Association's Annual Conference
May 3, 2024
New Orleans, Louisiana

Russell Klingaman to Present at the 2022 National Business Aviation Association Business Aviation Convention & Exhibition (NBAA-BACE)
October 19, 2022
Orange County Convention Center, Orlando Executive Airport, Orlando, Florida

Webinar: Aviation Lawyer Russ Klingaman to Provide Update on New Drone Law Rules and Best Practices
April 28, 2020
Webinar

Aviation Lawyer Russ Klingaman to Present on the Wright Brothers' "Flying Machine" Patent and its Impact on Aviation History
November 13, 2019
Mitchell International Airport | Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Russ Klingaman to Present at Aerospace Big Data Conference in Miami
September 11, 2019
Miami, Florida

Aviation Lawyer Russ Klingaman to Present at Experimental Aircraft Association's AirVenture
July 22, 2019
EAA AirVenture Museum | Oshkosh, Wisconsin

Russ Klingaman to Address Impact of Special Events on Airports
May 7, 2019
Green Bay, Wisconsin

Aviation Lawyer Russ Klingaman to Present at Experimental Aircraft Association
July 28, 2018
Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) AirVenture | Oshkosh, Wisconsin

Aviation Lawyer Russ Klingaman to Present on Drones and Emergencies at UAS Advocacy Network Summer Quarterly Meeting
July 25, 2018
Oshkosh, Wisconsin

Aviation Lawyer Russ Klingaman to Present at the Lawyer-Pilots Bar Association Convention
July 21, 2018
LPBA Summer 2018 Convention | South Lake Tahoe, California

Publications

FAA's Michael Whitaker Appointed Administrator Amidst Industrial and Bureaucratic Turbulence
December 6, 2023
Hinshaw Alert