AVIATION

Our lawyers represent aviation clients in the leasing and financing of aircraft, in litigation including products liability, aircraft accidents, and insurance coverage, in regulatory and compliance matters, and in intellectual property protection. Our clients include passenger and cargo airlines, airports, aircraft manufacturers, parts manufacturers, maintenance and service providers, aviation insurers, leasing and finance companies, dealers, and fractional owner-operators.

Our experience includes:

- An estimated $100 billion of aircraft financings.
- An estimated $40 billion of new aircraft purchases.
- Complex aircraft accident litigation throughout the United States on behalf of manufacturers, airlines, fixed-base operators, and insurers.
- Protecting intellectual property of aircraft manufacturers and other aviation businesses.

FINANCE AND COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS

We represent clients in the leasing and financing of aircraft, in purchase and sales, and in maintenance and service contracts. Clients include passenger and cargo airlines, aircraft and parts manufacturers, maintenance and service providers, and leasing and finance companies.

Our lawyers include:

- a former in-house attorney at Delta Air Lines, Inc. with experience in technical operations and fleet planning,
- a former chair of the American Bar Association’s Equipment Leasing Subcommittee.

Principal Services

- Aircraft Leasing and Finance

Our attorneys have represented airlines, lessors, and lenders in the loan and lease financings of more than 2,000 airline-operated aircraft. This includes secured loans, operating leases, and full-payout single-investor and leveraged leases – domestic and cross-border – with a total financed value estimated at $100 billion.

- Aircraft Purchases and Sales

We represent airlines and lessors in buying and selling aircraft, engines, and parts. Our attorneys have represented clients in purchase agreements for an estimated $20 billion of aircraft from Boeing, Airbus, Bombardier, Embraer, and other manufacturers. This includes negotiating with multiple engine manufacturers, related negotiations for maintenance and service contracts, and manufacturer financing commitments.

- Maintenance and Service Contracts

Our attorneys have represented airlines and leasing companies, on a worldwide basis, in buying and selling maintenance services and other service contracts. This includes aircraft technical support, licensing agreements, flight service contracts, and service and maintenance agreements.
• Business Jets

Our lawyers also work on business aviation: loan and lease financing, buying and selling, and other commercial aspects of private aviation.

LITIGATION, REGULATION AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Litigation

We have served as lead counsel on aviation insurance, products liability and accident cases in courts across the United States. We also counsel clients on risk management and insurance coverage to minimize exposure in transactions and operations.

Our aviation litigation attorneys serve clients across the United States and we are particularly active in Georgia, Florida, and the Southeast. The Florida Bar has certified our lead litigator as a specialist in aviation law.

We also protect aviation clients’ intellectual property rights and have handled to successful resolution cases involving patents, trademarks, copyrights, trade secrets, restrictive covenants, false advertising, computer software and electronic media issues.

Regulatory

We represent aviation companies in compliance and enforcement matters before the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), Transportation Security Administration (TSA), Department of Transportation (DOT), Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and other regulatory agencies. Our attorneys have led companies through accident investigations and have achieved successful outcomes when enforcement actions held the potential for fines, criminal charges or revocation of certificates. In all cases, we strive to maintain a good long-term working relationship between the client and the regulatory agency.

We also are experienced in the regulatory processes that must be satisfied for code sharing, securing new airport slots, airline alliances, transporting hazardous materials, compliance with safety regulations and mitigating environmental problems. We can advise commercial operators on the nascent regulations surrounding the use of unmanned aircraft or drones. Individual pilots sometimes retain Taylor English for matters involving licensing and medical issues.

Business and Labor Relations

We are experienced in the full range of aviation business and labor matters. Our lawyers have extensive experience in all aspects of aviation contracting and business organizations, as well as aviation employment and labor matters.

PRACTICE HIGHLIGHTS

Aircraft financings estimated at $100 billion. Represented airlines, lessors, and lenders in the loan and lease financings of more than 2,000 airline-operated aircraft. This includes secured loans, operating leases, and full-payout single-investor and leveraged leases–domestic and cross-border–with a total financed amount estimated at $100 billion.
Aviation

$8 billion order for Boeing 747-8F aircraft. $8 billion order for 20 Boeing 747-8F aircraft – the largest freighter order in Boeing’s 100 year history – and for services and other agreements. Our client (the buyer) comprises the airlines of Volga-Dnepr Group of Russia. We are sole outside counsel for this order.

Major Aircraft Purchase Agreements. Represented multiple airlines in purchase agreements for an estimated $40 billion of aircraft from Boeing, Airbus, Bombardier, Embraer, and other manufacturers. This includes negotiating with multiple engine manufacturers, related negotiations for maintenance and service contracts, and manufacturer financing commitments.

Dismissals of copyright claims and separate state action for international airline client sued over use of architectural plans. Represented a major airline in claims brought by a former vendor alleging misuse of architectural plans for office space. Won motion to dismiss state-court conversion claims, and in subsequent federal copyright-infringement case based on the same underlying facts, conducted discovery and negotiated settlement in which plaintiff dismissed the case with prejudice and with no payments from our client.

Challenges to airport commercialization. Represents citizens in numerous judicial challenges to an attempt by Paulding County and outside investor groups to expand the Paulding County Airport to include commercial passenger service in competition with Atlanta Hartsfield Jackson Airport. Lawsuits include challenges to funding of the airport, open meeting violations, violations of Federal Aviation Administration procedures (representation as co-counsel), injunction hearings and Georgia Supreme Court proceedings. Matter has significant importance to citizens, public interest groups, environmental groups and the entire metropolitan Atlanta area.