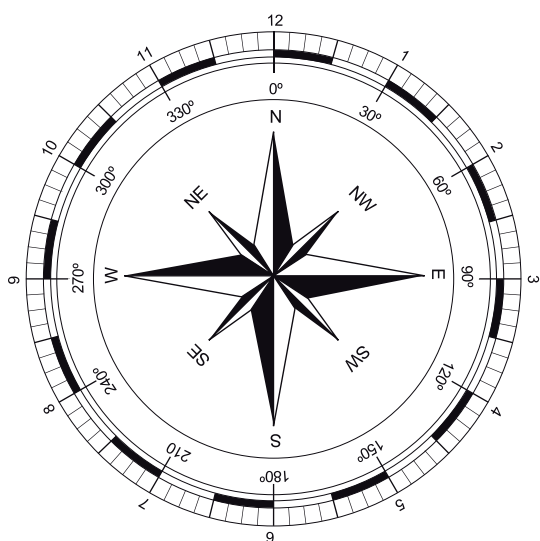


Bird & Bird & Aircraft Financing and Asset Management



Full Time Aviation team- London



UK
London

Paul Briggs

Partner, Aviation

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Paul is the Joint Head of the International Aviation Group and has worked in the aviation industry since 1987 in a career covering almost every aspect of the sector. From 1989 to 1991 Paul worked on closing and financing aircraft operating lease deals for GPA and from 1992 to 1995 Paul worked for a law firm in Hong Kong on aircraft finance and commercial matters.

In 1995 Paul joined British Aerospace and became the legal lead of the Group aircraft leasing / financing business. As part of this business Paul helped set up Oasis Leasing in Abu Dhabi (now Waha) and subsequently led the Airbus asset management legal team in Toulouse.

Paul regularly advises leasing companies, airlines and banks on the structure and strategy for deals and drafts and negotiates the needed documents. Paul has been involved in the creation and management of a number of leasing companies and frequently advises on standard form documents and creation of a quality process. Paul has negotiated hundreds of aircraft leasing deals and advised on simple and highly complex aircraft financing structures.

The former BAE systems lawyer comes highly recommended by clients who describe him as “thorough and enthusiastic”.

In the recent edition of Chambers and Partners (2010), Paul received the following mention: [Paul Briggs] “superb aviation knowledge” and “remarkable talent for understanding and reacting to clients’ particular needs.”



UK
London

Simon Chamberlain

Partner, Aviation

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Simon has spent more than 27 years involved in the aviation industry including 10 years as a senior in-house lawyer at British Airways Plc.

Simon deals primarily with transactional, regulatory and commercial matters in the aviation sector. His work includes on the transactional side; the purchase, sale, financing and leasing of large commercial and corporate aircraft and aircraft engines. His regulatory work includes; airline licensing, route licensing, international aviation agreements and treaties, domestic and international aviation legislation, ATOLs, IATA etc. In addition to the transactional and regulatory work, Simon deals with a broad range of commercial advice on all aspects of the aviation industry. His clients include airlines, aircraft owners and lessors, aircraft financiers, on-line travel companies, aviation service companies, trade associations and other organisations associated with the aviation industry.



UK
London

Robin Springthorpe

Partner, Aviation

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Robin is the partner who leads the disputes resolution team in the firm's Aviation sector group. All of his work is for aviation clients, principally aircraft lessors, airlines and airports.

Robin has conducted complex domestic and international commercial litigation and arbitration for over 20 years. He has acted at all levels of the English courts and in the major arbitration forums including ad hoc arbitrations under the Arbitration Act 1996 and pursuant to the rules of the LCIA, UNCITRAL and the ICC, as well in proceedings before aviation regulators around the world. He also has experience of alternative dispute resolution techniques such as mediation.

He deals with leasing, insurance coverage, product liability, technical, technology and aircraft deregistration disputes and all other issues which aviation clients encounter.

Robin has advised in respect of disputes involving aircraft in many jurisdictions including the UK, the United States, Mexico, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Sudan, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Botswana, Angola, Ghana, Central African Republic, South Africa, France, Spain, Italy, Romania, Russia, UAE, Turkey, Iran, Libya, India and Indonesia.

Robin is ranked in both the Aviation Litigation and Aviation Regulatory sections by Chambers UK 2010 and commended for his experience as an international litigator and arbitrator, his experience representing aircraft leasing companies and his talents in handling regulatory disputes.

Robin is also named described as one of the world's leading aviation practitioners in International Who's Who of Business Lawyers: Aviation 2010.



UK
London

Hugh Garety

Consultant

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Hugh joined Bird & Bird as a consultant in 2009, where he continues to act for a variety of parties involved in the aviation industry.

Hugh has specialised in aviation law since 1975 when he was a solicitor in the shipping and aviation group of an international law firm. From 1979-1987 he was in-house counsel at British Caledonian Airways, ultimately as Director of Legal Services. Following the acquisition of BCAL by British Airways in 1987 Hugh assisted with the integration of BCAL into British Airways.

In 1988 Hugh returned to private practice in London and since then has acted for a number of airlines, manufacturers, leasing companies, banks and others in the aviation sector.

Hugh is listed as an expert in aviation law by the 2009 Legal Business Report and is also listed as one of the World's Leading Aviation lawyers in the IFLR Guide 2008.



UK
London

Will Alete
Associate

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Will is a solicitor who works in the London Aviation Group. Will has carried out drafting and advisory work in relation to commercial aviation leasing and financing deals, major defence procurement contracts as well as being involved in a number of large Intellectual Property and Commercial disputes. Will spent five months on secondment with a client providing commercial assistance on both customer and supplier facing issues during an intense period of renegotiation and business strategy change.



UK
London

Stuart McGinn
Associate

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Stuart is an Associate in the London Aviation & Defence Group and works primarily on contentious and regulatory matters. His contentious experience covers litigation and ADR, including arbitration and mediation.

Stuart has worked on a number of contentious aviation matters on behalf of airlines, aircraft lessors, travel agents and tour operators. He is regularly involved in drafting legal advice and statements of case, as well as preparing and responding to Court applications and drafting witness statements.

Stuart has also helped to advise clients on a number of regulatory matters and recently has published articles on Regulation (EC) 261/2004 and the volcanic ash crisis in 2010.



UK
London

Thea Ward
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Thea has over eight years aviation law experience, including a secondment to the transport finance department of DVB Bank. She specialises in aircraft and engine financing, including acquisitions and disposals, domestic and cross border leasing, servicing, taking security, restructuring and repossession. She is an associate member of the British Association of Airline Representatives and acts for passenger and cargo airlines, as well as high net worth individuals, in a wide variety of aircraft based transactions and general advisory matters.

London Aviation main support team



UK
London

Andrew Hallgarth
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Andrew works with the Aviation Group on all aircraft financing matters.

This has recently involved advice to BAE Systems on retention of title, Boeing 747 refinancing for Virgin Atlantic and advice to Oakhill Capital on cash and security matters.



UK
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Brett Israel

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Brett heads the firm's corporate restructuring and insolvency practice, advising a range of insolvency practitioners who remain long-standing clients, as well as banks and other stakeholders who are affected when corporate entities succumb to financial difficulties. In recent years, much of his advisory and transactional work has taken place in the aviation sector.

Brett is a full member of R3 (the Association of Business Recovery Professionals) to whom he has made presentations on subjects such as retention of title, the Insolvency Lawyers Association and the Turnaround Managers Association.



UK
London

Mathew Oliver

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Mathew specialises in corporate and business taxation. He has extensive experience in asset finance, mergers & acquisitions, reorganisations and reconstructions, joint ventures, private equity, finance and property transactions.

Mathew has acted for a wide variety of clients across a broad spectrum of business sectors.

He is a member of the Chartered Institute of Taxation.



UK
London

Trystan Tether

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Trystan acts for both borrowers and lenders, and undertakes a wide range of loan, leasing and other finance work. Practising in this area over successive economic cycles has given him extensive experience of restructurings and insolvencies, from both the debtor and creditor perspective.

A particular focus for Trystan is project and asset finance work, a field in which he has advised on a significant number of high value projects in the aerospace and defence sector. This has given him extensive experience in such areas as the preparation and negotiation of asset finance loan, security and equity documentation, sponsor project support agreements, concession/licence contracts, dealing with export credit agencies in respect of credit and political risk insurance, collateral warranties from and direct agreements with contractors/professionals, contracts for the provision of goods and services to project finance companies and contracts providing for the sale of project outputs.

He is also well versed in the management of particular types of risk by the use of derivatives and has in-depth knowledge of English security and contract law.

International team



Belgium Brussels

Brent Springael

Associate, Tax

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Brent Springael heads the tax practice in Bird & Bird's Brussels office. His practice covers corporate and international taxation, with a focus on specific industries including life sciences, securitisation, shipping & aviation and e-commerce. Before joining Bird & Bird, Brent worked in the Brussels office of Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, the Brussels and Luxembourg offices of NautaDutilh and the New York office of Sidley Austin LLP.

In the field of aviation, Brent gained extensive experience in numerous transactions mainly for Belgian airlines and ground handling operators regarding the financing and sale and lease-back of aircraft or engines, the transfer of ground handling or aircraft businesses (inclusive of the aircraft), and specific issues related to ticket sales or catering services.

He is also a member of the Tax and Legal Committee of the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) in Belgium, and of the Belgian branch of IFA.

Brent studied law at the University of Ghent and at the Université Occidentale de Bretagne (France). He also completed a program in international tax law at the Ecole Supérieure des Sciences Fiscales (ICHEC) in Brussels. Brent's dissertation dealt with securitisation in Belgium, The Netherlands and Luxembourg.

He was admitted to the Brussels Bar in 1999 and speaks Dutch, French and English.



Belgium Brussels

Paul Hermant

Partner

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Paul is the Managing Partner of Bird & Bird in Belgium. He assists clients in their corporate, commercial and financial transactions and provides advice in those fields. He has particular expertise in mergers & acquisitions, joint ventures, private equity, corporate restructuring, take-over bids, stock exchange listings, as well as project and acquisition finance.

Paul also represents clients in company law litigation, including shareholders disputes and directors' liability. Paul is multilingual speaking English, French, Dutch and German and advises both Belgian and international clients.

Paul's corporate and commercial practice is recommended amongst others in the Chambers Global directory (edition 2007) with the following comment and client quote: "Bird & Bird's "smart, effective and cost-efficient" corporate practice works across a range of sectors, but can claim particular strengths in finance work and in technology-related cases".



China
Hong Kong

John Koh
Consultant

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John is a Consultant in the Corporate/Commercial Group and is based in Hong Kong.

His practice encompasses mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, commercial contracts and arrangements and foreign direct investment into the PRC. He also has extensive experience in a wide range of aviation, international corporate and commercial matters including acquisitions, disposals, IPOs, privatisations, private placements, bond issues and GDR issues.

John has practised in Hong Kong and Singapore for over 12 years and is dual-qualified in Hong Kong and England and Wales.

Before joining Bird & Bird, John worked at other leading international and Magic Circle firms in Hong Kong and Singapore.



Czech Republic
Prague

Vojtěch Chloupek
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Vojtěch is the head of the Intellectual Property Practice in the Czech Republic.

He joined Bird & Bird in June 2009 having previously worked in Allen & Overy for five years. In 2007, he was admitted to the Czech Bar. Before starting a career in advocacy, Vojtěch worked in a Czech copyright collecting society.

Vojtěch studied at the Law Faculty of Charles University in Prague and gained a degree of Magister Juris in European and Comparative Law at the University of Oxford (St. Peter's College). He also studied theatre management at the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague.

Vojtěch specialises primarily in intellectual property and competition law. His expertise covers both contentious and non-contentious aspects of various intellectual property rights, including copyright, trademarks, designs, patents, unfair competition, information technology, domain names and data protection.

Besides frequent advice on numerous IP/IT matters, he also regularly assists clients in connection with various antitrust matters, including anti-competitive practices, abuse of dominance, merger clearances and state aid. He represented clients in proceedings at the Czech Competition Authority as well as European Commission.

Vojtěch has significant industry expertise in a number of sectors, including aviation, electronic consumer products, media, life sciences, public transport and software.

He is fluent in Czech and English.



France
Paris

Sophie Nicolas
Senior European Consultant

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Sophie Nicolas has a significant experience in project finance (notably in the infrastructure and renewable energies sectors), asset finance and restructuring, following a career working both as in-house banking lawyer and in private practise. She advises both borrowers and lenders. She is a member of the Paris Bar.



France
Paris

Vonnick Le Guillou

Partner

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Vonnick specializes in domestic and international litigation relating to complex, cross border product liability cases, air transport and aviation insurance, for French and foreign industrial companies and insurers. She is currently acting in numerous aircraft crash cases, such as the Concorde crash of July 2000, the A340 Etihad accident of November 2007, the AF447 accident of 1 June 2009 and the Yemenia accident in Comoros.

She also acts in Litigation so called “Industrial risks” and product liability matters in other sectors such as automotive or chemical industry. She has developed widely-recognized expertise in this field, for aeronautical manufacturers as well as for OEM or MRO companies.

Vonnick is a member of several associations such as IAWA (International Aviation Women’s Association), DRI Europe and of the Société Française de Droit Aérien et Spatial.



Germany
Frankfurt

Michael Jünemann

Consultant

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Michael heads the finance practice in Bird & Bird’s Frankfurt office. Before joining Bird & Bird, he was based in the Frankfurt office of Mayer Brown LLP.

He advises international investors and banks on their European investments and credit exposures. His areas of expertise include asset based and leveraged lending work, management of non-performing loans and distressed investments and private equity transactions. He has particular expertise in LMA-based and other structured loans as well as German stock corporation law.



Germany
Munich

Dr Ulrich Goebel, LL.M.

Partner

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Ulrich Goebel is a German law qualified partner and Head of the Corporate/Commercial department of the Bird & Bird Munich office.

Ulrich specialises in aviation, aerospace, defence and security and other technology industry sectors. He focuses on international and cross-border deals; M&A and large commercial transactions, disposals and reorganisations; private equity & venture capital.

Ulrich joined the Daimler-Benz (later DaimlerChrysler) group in 1985 where he held legal and commercial positions in medical and aerospace for 14 years. He was General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of Dornier GmbH from 1992-1998 and Senior Vice President and General Counsel of DaimlerChrysler Aerospace AG from 1998 to 1999.



Italy
Milan

Andrea Budano

Associate

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Andrea specialises in transactional matters including domestic and cross-border mergers and acquisitions, corporate governance matters, large commercial agreements, start-ups, joint ventures and strategic alliances.

He has developed domestic and cross border experience in complex multi-tranche syndicated loan transactions, representing either the lender or the borrower on a wide range of financial matters, including acquisition and project financing. He has represented domestic and international financial institutions, developers, investors and private equity funds in connection with the financing, acquisition, development, construction, operation, and maintenance of capital-intensive projects, with special focus on the renewable energy sector.



Slovakia
Bratislava

Radovan Repa

Associate

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Radovan specialises in the Slovak law aspects of the aircraft finance. Radovan joined the Bratislava office of Bird & Bird as of 1 May 2009 from another UK based international law firm, where he was in the charge of the Slovak aircraft finance team.

Radovan's aircraft finance experience includes advising the Bank of Scotland in the course of the last 3 years on Slovak law aspects of a financing of aircraft acquisitions by a Slovak low cost carrier. Radovan covered in this connection all Slovak law aspects including also the structuring of the transaction and drafting the Slovak law security documentation.

Radovan also advised various clients on the contractual law in relation to the aircraft lease.



Spain
Madrid

José María Cusí

Partner

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José María is Head of Bird & Bird's Tax Group in Madrid. He has been responsible for the tax practice of a magic circle law firm in Barcelona for the past six years and previously worked for seven years at one of the Spanish leading firms in the Barcelona and New York offices.

In the tax area, José María specialises in international matters although he has a broad experience in domestic taxation covering corporations and individuals concerning direct as well as indirect tax aspects. José María has solid expertise in mergers and acquisitions, venture capital projects, tax structuring of real estate transactions and also designing tax efficient remuneration schemes for employees of listed and non-listed corporations and tax management of expatriates and impats.

José María has published numerous articles in both national and international tax magazines and he is the author of the Spanish chapter of a book on taxation of holding companies.

He is a frequent lecturer both in Spain and abroad on various topics and since 2004 he is professor of international taxation at the top tier Spanish business school of ESADE.

José María is member of the IFA, the IBA and the Spanish AED.



Spain
Madrid

José Luis Lorente Howell

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José Luis is an associate in the Banking & Finance practice of our Madrid office.

He joined Bird & Bird from Araoz y Rueda. He has experience in corporate, M&A, and has advised on a wide range of financial services transactions both domestic and trans-national.

In addition to the traditional banking practice, José Luis has provided advice to different participants in the aircraft market, both domestic and international, on the steps to follow in order to obtain registration with the Aircraft Matriculation Registry and Moveable Assets Registry, having also represented creditors and lessors affected by bankruptcy scenarios in order to obtain deregistration, repossession and recovery of such assets operating in Spain.



Spain
Madrid

Andrés Lorrio

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Andrés Lorrio is the head of the Banking & Finance Group in Spain.

Andrés has extensive experience in a wide range of banking and finance transactions advising both lenders and borrowers in a large number of financings including acquisition finance and takeover financings, corporate facilities, project finance, structured finance, asset finance (including real estate, shipping and aircraft), restructurings, real estate and insolvency.

In addition to the traditional banking and financial services practice, Andrés has provided advice to different participants in the aircraft market, both domestic and international, in relation to acquisition, financing and leasing transaction of these transportation assets, having also represented creditors and lessors affected by bankruptcy scenarios, repossession procedures and asset seizures.

Andrés joined Bird & Bird in January 2007 from Spanish M&A and private equity firm, Araoz & Rueda. Prior to this he worked at Linklaters and Freshfields.



Sweden
Stockholm

Jörgen Ekström

Partner, Aviation Commercial/
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Jörgen provides a range of contentious and non-contentious advice to clients in the aviation sector.

In the Aviation sector Jörgen has more than 20 years experience in advising on aircraft sale and purchase contracts, leasing contracts, maintenance, service and support contracts for aircraft and aircraft components. Jörgen's non-contentious work is focused on providing corporate and commercial advice to national and international clients in the aviation sector. On the contentious side, Jörgen is an experienced litigator and arbitrator.

Jörgen possesses exceptional knowledge of commercial technical contractual matters combined with commercial acumen. Jörgen has for example not only advised Cargolux on its recent acquisition of a fleet of Boeing 747-8F aircraft, but has previously also advised on Swiss International Air Lines (formerly Crossair) on their acquisition of fleets of Saab 340's, Saab 2000's, Embraer 145's to Embraer 170/190's and Airbus A340's including related warranty and support contracts with the

airframe manufacturers and suppliers of main components and systems and has advised Hello AG on leasing of a fleet of MD 90's. He also advised lessors and investors of various lease financing structures, and airlines on maintenance outsourcing.

Jörgen is listed as a leading lawyer in the 2008 edition of The International Who's Who of Aviation Lawyers, as a leading corporate and commercial lawyer in the 2007 edition of European Legal Experts, and is recommended for dispute resolution in the 2008/9 edition of the Cross-border Dispute Resolution Handbook.



Sweden
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Anders Nilsson

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Anders Nilsson is experienced in Corporate law and M&A and forms part of the Corporate Practice Group and the Aviation Sector Group. He has considerable national and international experience from working with public and private M&A including take-overs and IPOs. Anders' areas of focus also include corporate restructuring and co-operation arrangements. Within the Aviation Sector Group, Anders' advises clients on aircraft operating leases, financing, outsourcing of aircraft maintenance, restructurings and divestments. Anders is fluent in Swedish and English.



U.A.E.
Abu Dhabi

James Leeson

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James regularly advises public and private sector clients on a wide range of commercial and legal issues, including outsourcing, information technology, infrastructure, contract management and other general commercial matters. He recently completed a secondment with Etihad in Abu Dhabi and advises Etihad on a range of commercial matters including aircraft finance work.

James has also advised a number of commercial and military clients on regulatory and export control issues arising from their technological initiatives.

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Bird & Bird is an international legal practice comprising Bird & Bird LLP and its affiliated and associated businesses and has offices in the locations listed on our web site: twobirds.com.

A list of members of Bird & Bird LLP, and of any non-members who are designated as partners and of their respective professional qualifications, is open to inspection at the above address.

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