

Bird & Bird & Product
Liability in the Aviation
and Defence sector

That's Bird & Bird & Product Liability in the
Aviation and Defence sector

Sharing your
passion & working
your way & in
for the long haul
& across the
whole industry &
crossing the globe
& touching the
metal & helping
you to fly



Bird & Bird & Aviation

Our Aviation team has hands-on experience working within aviation companies and our people are steeped in the way the industry works. We act for many leading aviation businesses, including airlines, aircraft manufacturers, lessors, financiers, groundhandlers, MROs, freight forwarders, insurers, airports, tour operators, industry associations and online booking providers. Our clients in these organisations come to us because we know their business and we share a genuine passion and enthusiasm for the sector.

We relish using our aviation knowledge and experience to get to grips with business issues quickly. We provide timely, practical and commercially realistic advice and support in pursuit of sensible, workable solutions for transactions, ventures, and disputes. We like to be at the leading edge of business and legal developments and to be innovative for our clients' benefit.

Our people join forces to work on client matters across the world, meaning that all of our clients have access to the very best aviation legal expertise available from our firm.

Product liability

The worldwide volume of product liability claims in all sectors is increasing, including in the aviation & aerospace sector. This is true for product manufacturers, B2C and B2B retailers, and all intermediaries within the supply chain, including distributors, suppliers, retailers and importers. All of these businesses are increasingly exposed to product liability risks from faults in delivered products. Such claims are often complicated due to the combination of applicable laws in different jurisdictions, including the potential for variations between European legislation and the national laws of each member state.

Our aviation product liability specialists understand the sector, often from first-hand industry experience, and are specialists in handling product liability disputes and non-contentious matters. Our services related to product liability within the aviation and aerospace sector include:

Contentious

- Domestic and international disputes before criminal, civil and commercial courts or in national and international arbitration
- Working with insurers, their experts, and in-house engineers to set up teams capable of managing all stages of litigation, from the technical and financial aspects through to court proceedings
- Advising on complex international contentious issues, eg for large aircraft manufacturers
- Acting on the civil and criminal implications of group actions brought by several hundred claimants following aircraft accidents
- Advising on
 - Claims against equipment manufacturers and suppliers
 - Claims relating to aircraft incidents/accidents
 - General aviation claims
 - Damage to aircraft whilst on the ground
 - Contractual claims
 - Issues relating to carrier liability
 - Aviation insurance
 - National and European regulatory issues

Non-contentious

- Reviewing contractual documents
- Defining processes, such as criminal and legal risk
- Assisting clients to produce plans to manage risk, or offering bespoke legal risk training to staff without a legal background
- Advice on avoiding criminal risk for
 - unintentional offences
 - offences under the Consumer Code
 - offences relating to hygiene and safety

“Sharp and travel-literate lawyers with a great understanding of the industry.”

Chambers and Partners 2010

“Clients seek out the team’s assistance because it understands the aviation and aerospace market and is therefore able to offer commercially aware legal advice that is always on the money.”

Chambers and Partners 2010

Contacts

Belgium

Catherine Erkelens

T: +32 (0)22 826 000
catherine.erkelens@twobirds.com

China and Hong Kong

Marcus Vass

T: +852 2248 6000, +86 10 6505 6667
marcus.vass@twobirds.com

John Koh

T: +852 2248 6000
john.koh@twobirds.com

France

Vonnick Le Guillou

T: +33 (0)14 268 6000
vonnick.le.guillou@twobirds.com

Germany

Ulrich Goebel

T: +49 (0)89 3581 6000
ulrich.goebel@twobirds.com

Italy

Massimiliano Mostardini

T: +39 (0)23 035 6000
massimiliano.mostardini@twobirds.com

The Netherlands

Pauline Vos

T: +31 (0)70 353 8800
pauline.vos@twobirds.com

Poland

Stanislaw Pelczar

T: +48 (0)22 537 4900
stanislaw.pelczar@twobirds.com

Singapore

Alban Kang

T: +65 6534 5266
alban.kang@twobirds.com

Spain

Javier Fernandez-Samaniego

T: +34 (0)91 790 6000
javier.fernandez.samaniego@twobirds.com

Sweden

Jörgen Ekström

T: +46 (0)85 063 2000
jorgen.ekstrom@twobirds.com

UK

Robin Springthorpe

T: +44 (0)20 7415 6000
robin.springthorpe@twobirds.com

twobirds.com

Abu Dhabi & Beijing & Bratislava & Brussels & Budapest & Düsseldorf & Frankfurt & The Hague & Hamburg & Helsinki & Hong Kong & London & Lyon & Madrid & Milan & Munich & Paris & Prague & Rome & Shanghai & Singapore & Stockholm & Warsaw

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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.