

Frederick (Rick) Alimonti

Founder and Senior Partner of Alimonti Law Offices PC, Rick Alimonti brings over twenty years of aviation and insurance litigation experience to the firm. His experience includes product liability, airline law, general aviation, and aviation insurance coverage. Active in aviation law throughout his career, Rick has represented numerous clients from litigation through trial and appeal. His academic contributions to the field of aviation law include the formation and launch of the American Bar Association's highly successful first Annual Seminar on Aviation Litigation in 1995. This program continues as an annual institution in New York to this day. Mr Alimonti has twice served as chair of the ABA's national Aviation Litigation Committee. He is a regular speaker on aviation law and aviation safety and has published numerous articles on aviation litigation topics.

After several years as a partner in the aviation practice group at the law firm Haight Gardner Holland & Knight (an office of Holland & Knight LLP), Mr Alimonti launched his own firm in March 2001. At the time, Alimonti Law Offices consisted of Rick and a part-time assistant. Headquartered in White Plains, New York with a satellite office in Manhattan, Alimonti Law Offices has become an internationally regarded stalwart in the aviation and aerospace sectors. The firm is a frequent provider of CLE accredited programs in the United States and abroad. In the spring of 2001, shortly after opening its doors, Alimonti Law Offices sponsored a program on American Mediation at the Lloyds's Building in London. Mr Alimonti presented a paper on US 9-11 disaster legislation at the Marsh conference in Lisbon, Portugal in November 2001 and at Lloyd's in January 2002. He presented "Recent Developments in Aviation Product Liability" at the 2006 ABA Aviation Litigation conference in New York. In 2007, 2009, and 2010, Mr Alimonti prepared and delivered the ethics presentation at the ABA Aviation Committee's New York meeting. All of these presentations utilized aviation law scenarios. He also presented the ethics presentation at the TIPS Section ABA meeting in Washington, DC, October 2008, and will do so again in 2010 in the same venue.

Mr Alimonti is a graduate of Fordham University and St John's University School of Law. He is admitted to practice in the State of New York, the US District Courts for Southern, Eastern, and Northern District of New York, and the US Courts of Appeal for the Second, Fourth, and Eleventh Circuits. Rick is also a private pilot and serves as a Trustee and Air Show Chair for the New Jersey Aviation Hall of Fame and Museum at Teterboro, New Jersey.

Philip Bass

Philip Bass is a partner in the Clyde & Co aviation department in London. His main area of practice is aviation liability claims. Philip holds a private pilot's licence and has an IATA Diploma in Air Law.

He founded Beaumont & Son's Singapore office in 1992 and was managing partner of Beaumont & Son in London between 2000 and 2004.

Mr Bass acted as airline representative for a major Asian carrier in the IATA discussions on the Inter-carrier Agreement on Passenger Liability, and is a past chairman of the Aviation Committee of the Inter-Pacific Bar Association and a current member of a number of legal and aviation industry bodies.

Gillie Belsham

Gillie Belsham heads Ince & Co's global aviation practice. She deals with a range of high value recovery cases for leading London and French insurers and assists high net worth individuals in their aviation litigation matters. In addition she advises clients in relation to crisis planning and management, strategic safety, and brand reputation issues as they arise. Gillie is valued for her clear strategic sense and her effective case leadership, especially on big cases, and praised for her ability to "always get the results clients want" (Chambers UK, 2009). She is highly regarded in the aviation industry following the success of the Knight Air case and her deft handling of the Bristow/Sikorsky helicopter crash for Sikorsky. Gillie currently leads the Ince team heading a US \$100 million claim concerning the loss of two Boeing 747s which is due to be heard in the English Commercial Court, London.

Along with aviation insurance, both liability and coverage, Gillie advises clients on non-contentious aviation matters.

Ms Belsham speaks business French and has industry links with the US and Paris.

Prof Graham Braithwaite

Professor Graham Braithwaite is Head of the Department of Air Transport at Cranfield University. He has worked extensively in aviation safety management, human factors, and incident/accident investigation since he gained his PhD from Loughborough University. Professor Braithwaite is Director of the Safety and Accident Investigation Centre at Cranfield University and has delivered training courses around the world to clients from airlines, safety regulators, ATC providers, military, investigation agencies, and airport operators.

His Honour Harvey Crush

Since leaving the Bench in 2001, His Honour Harvey Crush has practised as an arbitrator and mediator, mainly in aviation and fatal accident cases, drawing on previous experience for thirty years as a City Solicitor and Advocate specialising in aviation disputes worldwide and sixteen years full and part-time as a Judge. Parties have ranged from a government department and a national carrier through insurers, corporate aircraft operators, parties injured on the ground, and handling companies and passengers, to individual commercial and private pilots. The issues have included complex commercial and financial agreements, disputes on policy wording, and numerous accidents.

His Honour Harvey Crush is particularly well known for his range of experience and his incisiveness and fast practical grasp of anything in the aviation field.

Jerry Flaxman

Jerry Flaxman has thirty-five years experience in aviation and insurance comprising: seven years as an aircraft engineer, twelve years as Claims Director of the Willis Aviation Claims Department, five years as Managing Director of Willis Inspace Division (Willis' specialist Space Insurance Division), two years as a self-employed Aviation Insurance Consultant, two years working as Aviation Business Development Manager for a major London city law firm, three years as Aviation Claims Director for Allianz London, and the last four years as Claims and Business Development Manager at QBE Aviation.

Jerry is an active member of the International Union of Aviation Insurers (IUAI) Claims Study Group, the IATA Airline Risk & Insurance Management Working Group, and the UK Flight Safety Committee. He has managed a number of high profile aviation disaster claims to effective resolution during the course of his career, including managing a number of major airline, products, and space claims.

Arthur W Hankin

Arthur Hankin is a partner with Blank Rome LLP, and concentrates his practice in commercial and tort litigation with substantial emphasis upon matters and contracts arising from aviation, product liability, insurance coverage (listed as national trial counsel and panel counsel assigned to major claims for many carriers), environmental exposures, professional negligence, med-mal defense, E & O defense, and contracts defense of manufacturers. Arthur is listed in *Best's Directory of Recommended Insurance Attorneys and Adjusters*. He is certified as a mediator by the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and is actively involved in alternative dispute resolution (ADR) proceedings.

Mr Hankin is national trial counsel for two major insurance companies, and has successfully tried to verdict over one hundred cases. He has been a licensed pilot for over forty years and was an invited speaker at the SMU Air Law Symposium. Mr Hankin has received the highest possible rating from Martindale-Hubbell.

Ricardo M Martinez-Cid

Ricardo Martinez-Cid was born June 13, 1976, in Miami, Florida. He earned his undergraduate degree in only three years at the University of Miami (BA cum laude 1997) and his Juris Doctorate at Yale Law School (JD 2000) where he was the William S Beinecke Scholar. While a law student, Ricardo was a director of Yale's renowned clinical program. He served on the Board of Directors of the Latino Law Students Association, and was an editor of the *Yale Journal of International Law*. Before joining Podhurst Orseck, Ricardo served as a law clerk to the Honorable James Lawrence King on the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida. He joined the firm in 2002 and was named a partner in 2006.

Although much of Ricardo's practice involves personal injury, wrongful death, and product liability cases with a focus on aviation litigation, he also handles admiralty and commercial matters. Ricardo has represented victims of many commercial aviation disasters including GOL Flight 1906, Brazil, 2006; Comair Flight 5191, Lexington, Kentucky, 2006; Chalk's Ocean Airways Flight 101, Miami Beach, Florida, 2005; Helios Airways Flight 20522, Cyprus, 2005; Tropical Air Flight 1301, Haiti, 2003; Scandinavian Airlines Flight 686, Milan, Italy, 2001; TAESA Airlines Flight 725, Mexico, 1999; and Silk Air Flight MI 185, between Jakarta and Singapore, 1997. He also handles numerous general aviation cases including fixed wing and rotary aircraft.

Mr Martinez-Cid has authored and published work for the Association of Trial Lawyers of America's Aviation Section. *The Miami Herald*, *The Sun-Sentinel*, and *The Daily Business Review* have interviewed and quoted him with reference to aviation law and his trial successes. Currently, he is Co-Chair of the Aviation and Space Law Committee of the American Bar Association. He has lectured for various bar organizations and on the faculty of the AIJ Cone Trial Advocacy Institute for the past two years. Ricardo speaks English, Spanish, and Portuguese

Dr Simon Mitchell

Dr Simon Mitchell, Aviation Director, RTI Ltd has worked in the aviation industry for over twenty years; experience and expertise that includes 5400 professional helicopter flying hours, combined with doctoral research into accident cost analysis and the economics of safety.

As a professional pilot, Simon has direct operational experience in all the key helicopter industry sectors: military flying as an officer for the Royal Navy, in the offshore oil support role for Bond and CHC, as a police pilot for the London Metropolitan Police Service, and as a corporate pilot and safety manager for Starspeed Ltd. He has managed helicopter operations in Monaco, the French/Swiss Alps, and the Caribbean.

As an academic, Simon has papers published on the perception of safety and its associated economic impact, and on systems for analysing the costs of accidents. He continues an association with Cranfield University Safety and Accident Investigation Centre, as a visiting fellow and as course director for the safety management professional and academic courses; he lectures on the framework of safety management systems, integrating safety management within business management, value of safety management, accident cost analysis, regulatory and market safety controls, safety data and analysis.

Joseph R Reynolds

Joseph Reynolds PE MEWI MAE, is the founder and president of RTI Group, LLC with offices in Maryland and California, now specialising in aviation and utilities forensic investigation services. He is also the founder, chairman and CEO of the London-based UK firm Reynolds Technological Inquiries Ltd, and RTI Latin America operating from Panama City, Panama. RTI is a consultancy of leaders in the technical analysis of transportation and utilities accidents and failures resulting in major claims and litigation. Joe is also the cofounder and chairman emeritus of FTI Consulting Inc where he was based for twenty-one years.

Joe is internationally recognised as a forensic engineer expert witness, and is an authority regarding the investigation and analysis of aircraft accidents, fires, equipment failures, systems reliability research, and safety analysis, as well as forensic investigation and safety education. He is a full member of both the Expert Witness Institute and the Academy of Experts in London. Joe has written numerous related papers and has presented lectures at major universities and peer group forums. As a pioneer in the use of visuals to aid in explaining highly complex technical issues, and based on his more than twenty years of demonstrative evidence experience, Joe has established a prominent digital imaging facility within RTI, operating as Magic Motion Studios.

Tim Scorer (Lawyer Panel: Chairman)

Tim Scorer specialises principally in aviation claims and aviation insurance disputes, litigation, and arbitration and mediation for Ince & Co. He handles a wide range of aviation interests including aircraft operators and pilots, aircraft manufacturers, airlines, flying displays, airports and aerodromes, certification authorities, helicopters, gliders, microlights, hang gliders, parachuting, and balloons.

Tim represents and assists in claims involving the interests of aviation industry organizations and the domestic and international aviation insurance market which provides coverage for them. He advises on contractual, insurance coverage and aviation regulatory matters and represents clients in litigation, arbitration and mediation, as well as acting as Advocate at Fatal Accident Inquests and in aviation criminal prosecutions and investigations. Tim is the author of Ince & Co's *"Guide to General Aviation Claims Handling."*

Drawing on his professional and practical experience, Tim is a lecturer/speaker on a wide range of legal issues affecting the aviation industry, particularly airworthiness, airport operations, carriage by air, air operations and aviation legal liabilities generally, at courses, conferences, seminars and symposia. For more than thirty-five years, he has been closely involved in the general aviation industry both professionally and socially. Having qualified as a private pilot in 1972 and accumulated over 1200 hours in single-engined aircraft, Tim is able to bring a high degree of technical and practical knowledge to his work.

Kathryn Ward

Kathryn Ward is an Associate at DLA Piper and specialises in post-accident legal liability, particularly relating to passenger, cargo, baggage, and product liability claims on behalf of airlines, airports, ground handlers, and product manufacturers and their respective insurers, as well as general aviation claims. Kathryn has wide experience in both domestic and international litigation and has handled claims arising out of incidents and accidents in the UK, Europe, South America, Asia, and Africa. Kathryn also represents product manufacturers and airlines in international arbitrations as well as alternative forms of dispute resolution, such as mediation and direct negotiation. She speaks fluent Spanish and much of her work focuses on Latin America through DLA Piper's Air Law Alliance.

Colin Wood MBE

Colin Wood MBE MA MCGI, is the Director of Airside and Baggage Operations at London Heathrow Airport where he is accountable for the leadership and delivery of all airside and baggage related activities, including ATC and the stakeholder management of ninety-two airlines, twelve ground handlers, and over four hundred associated companies. Prior to his current position, he served in the Royal Air Force as a senior officer specialising in operations and air traffic control. Colin joined BAA directly from the RAF in 2006.