

Aviation



Our Aviation Group

Our Aviation Group, led by Alison Wilds, comprises a team of specialist aviation lawyers. We are consistently regarded by independent guides to the legal profession as a leading firm in aviation work and we are listed in the current editions of *The Legal 500* and *Chambers and Partners UK*. We have the capability and the experience to offer a first class service to every type of client within the Aviation sector.



Our practice is wide ranging, covering aircraft and engine leasing and financing transactions, as well as commercial, operational, regulatory and litigation matters. We are extremely versatile, advising small independent aircraft operators and private owners of corporate/business jets as well as established international carriers such as Virgin Atlantic.

We provide commercial solutions to supplement our legal advice. We believe our size enables us to provide an effective, efficient and more personal level of service at a more competitive price than many of our competitors. In accepting any piece of work our aim is to understand the client's business and to deliver the best possible outcome.

We have extensive industry experience, both in the UK and abroad, and have represented many different participants in this sector, including financiers, lessors, airlines and aircraft operators and owners. Members of our team have also spent time working for or on secondment to industry participants.

Our cross-departmental links allow us to draw on the full spectrum of legal ideas and knowledge.

Aviation Finance and Commercial

- Aircraft and engine leasing (including finance, operating and wet leasing, and chartering)
- Aircraft and engine purchase and disposals (new and used) including advising on the purchase, delivery arrangements and registration requirements
- Aircraft and engine financing and all forms of security from guarantees, asset, account and share charges, to assignments of receivables and other contractual rights and benefits
- Aircraft and engine maintenance agreements, storage of aircraft, engines and parts, total care and warranty agreements and airworthiness management agreements
- Start-ups, fund raising, reorganisations, joint ventures, IPO's and M&A
- Operational and commercial agreements relating to airline and airport activities
- Intellectual property, e/m commerce, technology, data protection, branding and other IT issues
- Employment
- Procurement and supply



Litigation and Remedies

- Cross border litigation and arbitration
- Aircraft repossessions and enforcement of security
- Leasing disputes and return conditions
- Engineering and maintenance disputes and all other aviation related contractual disputes

Insolvency

- Advising on all aspects of insolvency and the impact on contractual and operational arrangements involving airlines and aircraft operators in financial distress whether for the airline, aircraft operator or for third parties who have a business relationship with them.
- Advising directors of their duties and personal liabilities.

Licensing and Regulatory Matters

We have worked on numerous airline start-ups and are familiar with UK and EU licensing requirements and airworthiness matters. We also have considerable experience of dealing with international regulatory matters.

For details of our relevant work see our website www.harbottle.com.

For further information, please contact Alison Wilds on +44 (0)20 7667 5266 or email alison.wilds@harbottle.com.

Contact Information

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Our Aviation Lawyers

Alison Wilds



Alison is a Partner and is Head of the firm's Aviation and Finance Group.

Alison has substantive experience in advising on all aspects of asset finance and leasing. Alison's expertise is recognised in the Asset Finance and Leasing section of *The Legal 500* and *Chambers and Partners UK* and in the Aviation Section of *Chambers and Partners UK*. Her expertise encompasses dealing with all aspects of the operation, leasing, financing and sale of aircraft, she has also dealt with the leasing, sale and/or financing of other assets such as computers, motor vehicles, large mobile cranes, luxury yachts and liquefied gas carrying tankers. She also has a significant and a broad range of specialist debt finance and security experience covering all aspects of lending, the creation and enforcement of a range of security packages and intercreditor issues.

Alison has worked in-house as sole legal counsel to the London branch of Bank Austria AG, where she was responsible for the day to day management of the legal work of the branch and for supervising and coordinating all of the legal aspects of the merger of the London branches of Bank Austria AG and Creditanstalt AG.

She has acted for arrangers, lenders, airlines, lessors and lessees, manufacturers, large commercial institutions and corporate borrowers.

Alison has a Certificate in Air Law from University College London, is a member of the Aviation Club of Great Britain, the European Air Law Association and is an affiliate member of the Royal Aeronautical Society. She graduated from Bristol University in 1977 with a BA (Hons) in History and for some years had a career outside the law, before training to become a solicitor and qualifying in 1988. Since then she has worked for a number of London law firms, including the Aviation Group at Theodore Goddard (now Addleshaw Goddard) and the International Banking Group at Mayer Brown before joining Harbottle & Lewis in February 2004. Alison was promoted to partner in 2007.

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Colin Howes



Colin is a Partner and is Head of the Company/ Commercial Group.

He is involved in providing specialist corporate finance and strategic advice for clients in the aviation industry. Colin became a partner in 1984 and he was also the firm's managing partner for eight years from 1992 to 2000. Colin is acknowledged as an expert on the competition law implications of airport slot allocation and was involved in establishing Virgin Atlantic Airways. He is a member of the European Air Law Association.

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Mark Owen



Mark is a Partner and is Head of the firm's Intellectual Property, Technology and Online Commerce Groups.

He specialises in the protection and use of technology content and brands, covering everything from advice on how to develop IP to how to exploit it while maintaining control. Mark became a partner in 1999 and is also a member of the California Bar, the International Trade Mark Association, the Law Society's IP Group, and the Computer Law Association.

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Caroline Turner



Caroline is a Partner and a member of the eCommerce & Technology Group.

Caroline advises on a broad range of non-contentious commercial issues and agreements including in relation to agency, merchandising, supply, licensing, franchising and distribution arrangements. Caroline also works closely with the Intellectual Property Practice.

Caroline graduated from Bristol University with an LLB. She qualified as a solicitor in 1998 at Cameron McKenna, joining Harbottle & Lewis in January 2001 and became a partner in 2007. Caroline is a member of the Society for Computers and the Law and Women in Publishing.

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Joanne Twiss



Joanne Twiss is a Partner in the Employment Practice.

Joanne advises employers and employees on all employment matters, both contentious and non-contentious. As well as the usual day-to-day HR issues, Joanne advises on Tribunal matters, redundancies, outsourcing and business reorganisation, including TUPE issues.

Joanne has particular expertise in employment litigation, having successfully managed many cases in the Employment Tribunals (several of them high profile) and also the High Court. Joanne's expertise in employment law is recognised by the Legal 500.

Joanne graduated from Birmingham University with an LLB and qualified in 1998, joining Harbottle & Lewis in January 2001. Joanne became a partner in 2007. She is a member of the Employment Lawyers Association.

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