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Our law firm has been engaged extensively in aviation insurance defense work since the 1970s. Over the last 35 years, we have represented, through insurers, OEM aircraft and component manufacturers, MRO and FBO overhaul and maintenance organizations, airport owners and operators, aircraft owners and operators. We have also handled many matters directly involving coverage issues, both for insurers and for reinsurers, as well as for their insureds. Our practice includes many years of experience in environmental matters, ranging from regulatory compliance to litigation over large airport contamination disputes.

In addition, our aviation practice expanded in the early 1990s with the growth of business turbine aircraft and transactional matters. These have included providing legal services to sellers and purchasers of aircraft, lessors and lessees, fractional aircraft owners and operators, lenders, importers and exporters of aircraft. Our participation in the National Business Aircraft Association and the Aviation Insurance Association have been significant factors in our success. Our clients' needs for our services encompass North America and span the globe with regular activity in Europe, Asia and the South Pacific. We have expanded services to meet our clients' needs in the growing regulatory environment of the EU community.

In that regard, we have worked with numerous members of the aviation insurance industry both on behalf of insurers and reinsurers, and on behalf of those who purchase insurance. Further, we represent many insureds in regulatory and investigative matters before the FAA, the DOT, and the NTSB. This breadth of experience and continuing service gives us a broad perspective on the industry, and a unique ability to provide counsel and legal services to all members of the insurance community.

Aviation insurance risks differ from many other types of insurance, due to the smaller pool of insureds as well as the nature of the risks themselves. Recent years have been difficult for the industry as rates have declined with a significant growth of capacity among insurers. Further helping to keep rates lower has been the reduced number of major aviation losses in recent years. While the resulting lower premiums have been a welcome relief to airlines and other insureds everywhere, for insurers there remains the concern that this reduced premium base may not adequately allow for losses which have occurred historically, and may occur again at any time.

From the standpoint of claims handling and legal defense of claims, the insurers' abilities to manage and control claims costs have become increasingly important. The pressure on insurers and their service providers remains a continuing challenge for all members of the industry.

The near-term future of insurance rates in aviation is unclear, but there is no doubt that the aviation industry, including both airlines and business aviation, will serve as a large and critical component of world economic activity for many years to come. Insurance will always be required, and rates will fluctuate with economic conditions.



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