

Charles
Russell
Speechlys

Aviation *Airlines*

Introduction

The global aviation sector is a dynamic and complex industry, vital for connecting people and economies. With decades of experience representing clients in this field, we understand the importance of navigating challenges such as geopolitical events and economic shifts, while maintaining a focus on innovation and sustainability.

We work with many of the world’s leading airlines and many of our client relationships are longstanding. Acting for national carriers, private airlines and regional operators, our team advises on corporate and commercial matters, resolving disputes, intellectual property matters, sponsorship agreements, employment and pensions law.

The breadth of our client base means we understand the different commercial pressures that airlines face and we tailor our advice and approach accordingly.

We work with airlines to resolve all types of disputes including contractual disputes relating to ground handling, aircraft purchase/refurbishment, engine leasing agreements and intellectual property. Where pre-court settlements of disputes may not be possible, we have significant experience of resolving such disputes through litigation, arbitration or mediation.

Commercial relationships with service providers, aircraft manufacturers and airports can be complex and subject to frequent renegotiation or disputes. We have significant experience drafting commercial contracts with third-party service providers such as engine and component manufacturers, as well as contracts concerning aircraft landing, freight and other charges related to the use of airport infrastructure.

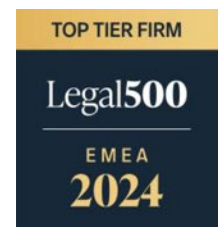
Navigating employment issues in the airline industry requires a thorough understanding of both the legal landscape and the unique operational environment of airlines. We work closely with airlines and their suppliers to ensure a balance between and the rights and safety of employees.

Our dedicated team supports clients in this sector by addressing a broad range of employment law and HR

issues, from restructurings and redundancies to the reward and retention of key staff.

Just like other successful businesses, airlines are looking to make the most of their intellectual property assets including trade marks, copyright and designs, through their protection, enforcement and commercialisation. We are one of the few leading international law firms with the ability to provide a holistic approach, and a complete ‘one-stop-shop’, to meet your needs across the full range of intellectual property.

Sport sponsorships and other commercial partnerships are critical for the successful marketing of airlines. Our top ranked sports team has longstanding experience in advising on such arrangements and will always start by gaining an understanding of your specific priorities and concerns. Your in-house legal and commercial teams can be confident that our lawyers will work hand in glove with them to ensure the best possible outcome from these important agreements.



“

They're head and shoulders
above the competition.”

Chambers
AND PARTNERS

Chambers Global

Our relevant experience



Acting for Gulf Air, the national airline of the Kingdom of Bahrain, in the English High Court in respect of a complex multi-million-dollar breach of contract case involving seven separate respondents relating to in-flight entertainment contracts and in a dispute regarding the sale and purchase of 10 aircraft at a cost of approximately USD 630 million.



Advising Gulf Air, the national airline of Bahrain, on a range of contracts including aircraft maintenance and operating agreements, partnership agreements for the provision of holiday packages, ticketing agreements and technology licences. We also drafted their suite of contract templates and playbooks to govern their contracting process and provide them with data protection advice.



Instructed by Etihad Airways on a variety of dispute resolution matters.



Selected to join its legal panel in July 2020, we have advised Qatar Airways on a variety of contentious and non-contentious matters and projects.



Advising EasyJet on a range of legal matters, including disputes relating to ground handling agreements, IT agreements and licences, research project arrangements, engine maintenance and regulatory matters.



Advising Oman Air on intellectual property issues and a whole range of dispute resolution matters as well as acting in a EUR 6 million arbitration claim relating to claims of copyright infringement in relation to cabin crew uniforms.



Advising Emirates in relation to contentious and non-contentious Intellectual Property matters.

Our relevant experience (cont)



Providing Gulf Air with best practice advice on day to day employment issues in relation to its UK employees.



Advised Etihad Airways on their respective reward and key staff retention policies, training programmes and contentious whistleblower matters.



Successfully defended Etihad Airways in a major case concerning issues relating to collective performance rights licensing in the context of airlines operators and the use of music on international flights.



Reviewing Gulf Air's various policies and providing advice in respect of compliance with UK GDPR. The work has included the review of employee contracts and Privacy Notice Policy, Privacy Policy, Personal Data Protection Policy, Subject Access Request Policy and Binding Corporate Policy.



Advised EMMA Systems, a leading innovator in aviation technology, on its strategic reorganisation, migration from the United States (Delaware) and establishment of a new holding company (Emma Systems LLC) in the Qatar Finance Centre.



Advised Etihad Airways in relation to a complex multi-million-dollar aircraft maintenance agreement for its Boeing 777 fleet and the termination of the same.

Our relevant experience (cont)



Successfully obtaining a recognition and enforcement of a UK judgment for a 9 million USD from the Abu Dhabi Courts for IFLL Invicta Finance Leasing III Limited based on reciprocity between the UK and UAE.



Representing Enigma Information Retrieval Systems Inc against a major defence manufacturer in a matter involving use of software applications for the maintenance of aircraft.



Advising the shareholders and lenders in and to FlyBMI in respect of their administration. Amongst the very many complex issues associated with an airline administration, this also involved the transfer out and disposal of all the aircraft in the FlyBMI fleet shortly before the administrator was appointed.



Acting for Air Arabia to secure a favourable judgment in the Dubai Courts in connection with a USD 160 million commercial dispute.



They're a fantastic team - *very commercial, very clear in their advice* and a pleasure to work with."



Chambers UK

“

Nascent start-ups and intergalactic corporations alike *love to have Charles Russell Speechlys as the guardian* of their most important brands, due to its unwavering commitment to quality *and its holistic and commercial approach.*”



World trademark
review

Our team

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To start building relationship
with a meaningful impact,
please get in touch.

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