

Charles  
Russell  
Speechlys

# Aviation *Airlines*



# Introduction

We have acted for clients in the aviation sector for decades. It is currently facing unprecedented challenges, with disruption caused by the closure of borders and quarantine restrictions, and with potential repercussions affecting the industry for years to come.

We work with many of the world’s leading airlines and many of our client relationships are long-standing. 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.

Employment issues such as the end of government support schemes and the current vastly reduced numbers of passengers are a deep concern for the sector. We work closely with airlines and their suppliers to help them address a broad range of employment law and HR issues via a dedicated HR professionals team, from the inevitable

restructurings and redundancies to the reward and retention of key staff, as well as all aspects of UK immigration and pensions law.

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.*"

Anonymous Client

## Our relevant experience

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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 USD630 million.



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



Selected to join its legal panel in July 2020, we advise 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 €6 million arbitration claim brought by a French company relating to claims of copyright infringement in relation to cabin crew uniforms.



Advising Emirates in relation to Intellectual Property matters.

## Our relevant experience (cont)



Providing a major Middle Eastern airline with best practice advice on day to day employment issues in relation to its UK employees, including advice concerning sickness absence and grievances; reviewing and advising on employment contracts and policy documentation; and advising on outsourcing arrangements and agreements.

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Advised two flag carrier airlines on their respective reward and key staff retention policies, training programmes and contentious whistleblower matters.

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Advising a South East Asian national airline in relation to terminating a UAE law general sales agency agreement.

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Acting on behalf of a Caribbean airline involved in a major aircraft engine-leasing dispute.

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Acting for a major French airline in various commercial disputes against several providers of training, communication and advertising services.

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Advising a French regional airline on pre-litigation negotiations with one of its directors in a dispute concerning the governance of the company and the renewal of the director's mandate.

## Our relevant experience (cont)



Advising a regional airline in connection with various disputes arising in relation to jet engine leasing agreements including arbitration proceedings and assisting to negotiate a commercial settlement.



Representing an executive private airline regarding an aircraft refurbishment dispute and associated contractual variations.



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

Chambers UK  
2020



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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