Aviation & Drone Law

Navigating complex aviation regulation, construction, tax and financing issues can be nearly as complicated as navigating the airways. GrayRobinson established its aviation practice to provide much-needed legal counsel to Florida’s burgeoning aviation industry.

GrayRobinson’s aviation attorneys have worked with the Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) and local aviation authorities on a variety of matters. We have assisted clients in interpreting FAA regulations and obtaining building height variances and "no hazard" determinations, including negotiating flight approach procedures with the FAA and modifying county and municipal codes to clear zones for buildings along flight paths. We have extensive experience negotiating construction contracts for airport improvements (including a $2 billion expansion project).

GrayRobinson's aviation attorneys have represented clients in an array of other aviation matters, including domestic aircraft transactions and complex leveraged-lease transactions for fixed-base operators handling hangars, fuel, supplies, towing, maintenance services and aircraft storage. Fixed-base operators regularly call upon GrayRobinson's team of aviation attorneys for counsel on contract negotiations and disputes with airport authorities and owners. When the State of Florida was looking to purchase its new $5 million Cessna, the state of Florida turned to the lawyers of GrayRobinson. We also have represented a wide range of buyers and sellers of aircraft, aircraft manufacturers, pilots, aircraft leasing companies, airlines in fleet acquisition and lenders in conventional secured financial transactions.

Aviation Technology

New technologies are constantly changing the landscape of business practices, forecasts and possibilities. The use of commercial drones as a viable trade method will become a reality in the near future as the FAA establishes rules for their safe operation. Because it will become a way for you to conduct your business, GrayRobinson formed the commercial drone practice group to exemplify how we conduct ours.

As an emerging technology, commercial drones are undergoing a rapidly expanding scope of opportunities and a surge to find the best way to regulate such practices. With GrayRobinson’s breadth of experience across the board, including licensed pilots and experience with the FAA, the commercial drone practice group is equipped to meet the mounting demand for legal guidance in this field.

As businesses and industry leaders imagine and redefine new ways to implement unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), GrayRobinson’s aviation attorneys dedicate time to confronting new issues as regulations are determined and molded. From real estate to insurance, from intellectual property to health care, GrayRobinson’s commercial drone practice group can support your business.
Our Team

GrayRobinson’s aviation practice is led by Guy Haggard, a Florida Bar Board Certified aviation attorney and an instrument-rated private pilot experienced in purchase and sale transactions ranging from Cessna 150s to Gulfstream Vs. Guy is a member of the West Orange Airport Authority and was previously its Chairman. Other members include Donald Nohrr who previously served on the Board of the Melbourne Airport Authority from 1986-1991 and serving as Chairman from 1991-2002, when he became the Authority’s attorney.

Media Mentions

- "Get Ready to Register Your Drones, People!" *Fortune*, November 2015
- "Drone Crash at U.S. Open; New York City Teacher Arrested," NPR, September 2015
- "Police Taser Drones Authorized in N.D.," *USA Today*, August 2015
- "Want an Advanced Degree in Drones? Here’s a School For You," *Fortune*, August 2015
- "This Drone is Packing Heat, But it Isn't Breaking Any Laws," *Fortune*, July 2015
- Miami 610 WiOD Radio Interview, February 2015
- "Mosquito Hunting Drones in the Keys Just the Beginning," Miami 610 WiOD, January 2015
- "Filmmakers Wait For FAA to Clear Drones for Takeoff," *The Tampa Tribune*, July 2014
- "Drones Take Flight as Real Estate Tool, and Much More," *Tampa Bay Times*, April 2014