



Donald Gray

Partner | Toronto

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Donald advises a number of aircraft and engine lessors, financiers, manufacturers, and domestic and international airlines on aircraft finance and aviation commercial and regulatory law matters. He is also head of our aircraft finance practice and Practice Group Leader of the Firm's Aviation & Aerospace Group.

Donald has considerable airline industry experience, including as vice-president and general counsel of an international charter airline, an Air Canada regional connector and an international cargo carrier. He also served as vice-president, maintenance and engineering, for the airline group.

Donald is an active aircraft owner and IFR (instrument flight rules) rated pilot. He holds Canadian, U.S. and South African aviation documents.

SELECT EXPERIENCE

- Advised on the financing or refinancing of more than 700 aircraft over the past 10 years
- Played a leading role on behalf of aircraft lessors and financiers in every significant Canadian airline bankruptcy proceeding in the last 25 years, including Wardair, Odyssey International Airlines, Vacationair, Worldways, Nationair, Can-Air Cargo, Vistajet, Canadian Airlines International Ltd., Inter-Canadien, Canada 3000, Royal Airlines, All-Canada Express, Knighthawk, Air Canada, Jazz, Jetsgo, Zoom Airlines, Skyservice and Aveos, among others
- Represented GECAS in the Air Canada Restructuring, which received an Airfinance Journal "Deal of the Year Award" in 2004

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Donald is regularly recognized as a leading lawyer in aviation law and equipment finance law including, most recently, in the following publications and awards:

- *Chambers Canada: Canada's Leading Lawyers for Business 2020* (Band 1 - Transportation: Aviation: Finance)
- *The Best Lawyers in Canada 2020* (Aviation Law and Equipment Finance Law)
- *Who's Who Legal: Thought Leaders - Global Elite 2020* (Aviation)
- *The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory 2019* (Asset Equipment Finance/Leasing and Aviation (Regulation & Liability))
- *The Legal 500 Canada 2019* (Transport - Aviation)

- *Who's Who Legal: Aviation 2019*
- *Chambers Canada: Canada's Leading Lawyers for Business 2019* (Band 1 - Transportation: Aviation - Canada)
- *The Best Lawyers in Canada 2019* (Aviation Law and Equipment Finance Law; named Best Lawyers' Toronto Aviation Law Lawyer of the Year in 2015)
- *Who's Who Legal: Thought Leaders - Global Elite 2019* (Aviation)
- *Legal Media Group's The Best of the Best 2018* - Recognized as a top aviation expert in Canada
- *The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory 2018* (Asset Equipment Finance/Leasing and Aviation (Regulation & Liability))
- *Chambers Canada 2018* (Band 1 - Transportation: Aviation - Canada)
- *The Legal 500 Canada 2018* (Transportation - Aviation)
- *IFLR1000: The Guide to the World's Leading Financial LawFirms - 2018 Edition* (Asset Finance)
- *Who's Who Legal: Canada 2017* (Aviation)
- *Who's Who Legal Awards 2017: Global Lawyer of the Year for Transport - Aviation Finance*
- *Chambers Global: The World's Leading Lawyers for Business 2017* (Band 1 - Transportation: Aviation - Canada)
- *Chambers Canada: Canada's Leading Lawyers for Business 2017* (Band 1 - Transportation: Aviation: Finance - Canada)
- *The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory 2017* (Consistently Recommended - Aviation (Regulation & Liability); Consistently Recommended - Asset Equipment Finance/Leasing)
- *Who's Who Legal: Transport 2017* (Aviation Finance: Donald is "described by sources as 'one of the best-regarded aviation finance lawyers in North America'. They add: 'The confidence his clients have in him is extremely impressive'.")
- *Who's Who Legal: Thought Leaders 2017* (Transport - Aviation Finance)
- *The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory 2016* (Repeatedly Recommended - Aviation (Regulation & Liability); Consistently Recommended - Asset Equipment Finance/Leasing)
- *Who's Who Legal: Canada 2016* (Most Highly Regarded Individual - Aviation)
- *Legal Media Group's The Best of the Best 2016* - Recognized as a top aviation expert in Canada
- *Legal Media Group's Guide to the World's Leading Aviation Lawyers 2015*
- *Who's Who Legal 2015* (Transport - Aviation Finance)

PUBLICATIONS

[Co-author: Cape Town in Canada: Financing the Future](#)

ABA Forum, The Air & Space Lawyer, Vol. 31, No. 1, 2018.

[Co-author: The Cape Town Convention and aircraft protocol's substantive insolvency regime: a case study of Alternative A](#)

Cape Town Convention Journal, Vol. 5 - 2016, Issue 1, Taylor & Francis, March 20, 2017.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Donald was a Canadian delegate to the Unidroit/ICAO sessions, which enacted the Cape Town Convention on International Interests in Aircraft. He was also a member of the drafting group in Rome and chair of the insolvency group in Montréal that prepared the final insolvency provisions. Donald has served as chair of the Legal Advisory Panel of the Aviation Working Group (AWG). He co-ordinated the Canadian airlines advisory submissions to the Government of Canada in respect of the 2010/11 Aircraft Sector Understanding (ASU) OECD negotiations.

Donald is a member of the Legal Affairs Committee of the Air Transport Association of Canada, the Section on Business Law/Aircraft Financing Subcommittee and Forum on Air and Space Law/Aircraft Finance and Contracts Division of the American Bar Association, the National Air and Space Section of the Canadian Bar Association, the Aeronautical Law Section of the International Bar Association and the Ontario Bar Association. He is also a member of the International Society of Transport Aircraft Trading and was invited by Transport Canada Aviation to join the Canadian Aviation Regulation Advisory Council.

Donald is a contributing author to *Aircraft Liens and Detention Rights*, *Aircraft Finance* and the *AirFinance Annual*.

EDUCATION

Admitted to the Ontario Bar - 1984

LL.B. (with exchange program credits from Wayne State University in Detroit), University of Windsor - 1982

B.A., University of Western Ontario - 1979