

Paul Jebely

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Paul serves as the firm's Global Head of Aviation and Marine.

He is widely regarded as the top global private aviation lawyer counselling international ultra-high net worth individuals and their business enterprises on all aspects of private aviation. He also regularly counsels such individuals in connection with the acquisition, sale or financing of other high-value private assets, ranging from superyachts to rare collector cars. In addition, he is considered a leading global aviation industry lawyer, where he focuses on counselling private investors across multiple aviation industry sectors, particularly advanced air mobility.

Paul has counselled clients on well over US\$ 20 billion in transactions, as well as on restructuring and contentious matters. For doing so, Paul has been the recipient of many legal and aviation industry awards - including being named "Global Private Aviation & Yachts Lawyer of the Year" (Chambers & Partners) and "Asia Private Client Lawyer of the Year" (American Lawyer Media/Law.com). He has also been noted by the Financial Times on several occasions, in addition to The Wall Street Journal, Forbes, Bloomberg, China Daily and other business publications. He has also published and lectured extensively on various aspects of asset finance, principally aviation. He is now the Founder and Chairperson of The Hague Court of Arbitration for Aviation that launched in July 2022.

Paul is qualified to practice law in England, the United States (New York and Washington State) and Canada (Ontario).

Immediately prior to joining Withers, Paul served as the managing partner of a leading American law firm in Hong Kong and was co-chair of its global private wealth and asset finance practices.

Track record

US\$8 billion of private aircraft

Counselling ultra-high net worth individuals, companies and financial institutions in relation to the purchase, financing, leasing and sale of more than US\$8 billion of private aircraft.

Aircraft leasing business

Counselling investor on the successful US\$2.2 billion acquisition of a minority interest in a global aircraft leasing business.

Restructuring of US\$4.5 billion aircraft order

Counselling investor on the successful restructuring of US\$4.5 billion new aircraft order.

Low cost airline

Counselling investor on the successful acquisition US\$35 million acquisition of a minority interest in a low cost airline.

New aircraft orders

Counselling airlines in relation to the purchase, financing and sale/leaseback of more than US\$2.5 billion of new aircraft orders.

Lease facilities

Representing airlines, financiers and investors on a large number of operating lease back-leveraged operating lease facilities, pre-delivery payment facilities and other secured loan transactions (including restructurings) covering dozens of jurisdictions.

Aircraft repossessions

Representing investors, financiers, lessors and airlines on contentious and non-contentious aircraft repossessions.

Commercial dispute negotiations

Representing investors in commercial dispute negotiations.

Talks

- 'Investor-State Arbitration in the Context of "Grand Theft Aero"', Apr 2022
- 'Legally Yawned: Reflections on \$2 billion+ in Pandemic Deals and a Prescription for the Future', Corporate Jet Investor Global, presenter - November 2021
- 'The Untapped Potential of Arbitration in Business Aviation', Corporate Jet Investor Global, presenter - June 2021
- The Avstonish Conference, speaker - May 2021
- African Aviation Services Limited's 28th African Aviation Summit: Air Finance Africa, Johannesburg, speaker - May 2019
- 'Sanctions, Tariffs and Other Challenges in Aviation Finance', Airline Economics' Growth Frontiers Conference, Hong Kong, presenter - October 2018
- ISHKA's Aviation Festival, Hong Kong, speaker - September 2018
- 'How to Not Go To Jail', Corporate Jet Investor's Corporate Jet and Helicopter Asia Conference, Singapore, presenter - June 2018

Admissions

New York

Washington State

England and Wales

Ontario (non-practising)

Hong Kong (Registered Foreign Lawyer)

Education

York University, Osgoode Hall Law School, Juris Doctor, 2005

University of Toronto - University of Trinity College, Bachelor of Arts, 2002

Languages

English

Key dates

Year joined: 2022

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