

Brandt R. Madsen

Chicago, IL

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PARTNER

Overview

Brandt has been representing clients in all facets of the dynamic aerospace industry for over 25 years, matching their innovation with his own creative solutions. As the chair of the firm's Aerospace Industry Group, he oversees a team providing services in corporate consultation, administrative and regulatory issues, insurance coverage and litigation. Brandt focuses on providing legal support services to the corporate aviation sector. Also, as the aerospace industry embraces the development of unmanned aerial systems [UAS], Brandt assists clients addressing a new set of issues arising from this emerging technology.

Brandt provides general counsel services for a number of aviation startups. He has helped marshal inventors' ideas from concept to implementation throughout the commercial fleet. His advice includes negotiations with regulators and corporate partners, coordination of Intellectual Property issues and drafting of licenses, service agreements, and grants. In addition, Brandt has coordinated the administrative compliance and interfaced with regulators. Brandt also serves as an advisor to aviation manufacturers and service industry entities on a wide variety of commercial matters including but not limited to aircraft transactions, leases, financing agreements and outside general counsel services.

Brandt is an experienced trial attorney, and has brought dozens of cases to trial and through appeal, representing municipalities, corporations, small businesses and individuals. Brandt also has an active administrative practice, representing clients before administrative agencies, such as the FAA, FTC, NTSB, CFTC and the Department of Revenue. Brandt has been involved in many high profile air crash cases, successfully representing airport operators, air traffic controllers, operators and manufacturers. His aviation experience includes regulatory practice and working with the FAA and NTSB. Brandt represents airmen, corporate flight departments, air traffic controllers, airports, aircraft owners and operators, and FBOs (fixed base operators). He has also represented numerous airplane and helicopter pilots in enforcement actions brought against them by the FAA.

SERVICES

Aerospace
General Liability
Product Liability

EDUCATION

The John Marshall Law School, J.D., 1988
Moot Court Executive Board, 1987-1988
Miami University, B.S., 1984

ADMISSIONS

Illinois
Michigan

While Brandt finds great success in the courtroom, he is often able to resolve cases early in the litigation process via motions to dismiss or by negotiating settlement. In a recent high profile case, this meant keeping his client's name out of the national news while the matter resolved behind the scenes.

Outside the office, Brandt and his family work with an international relief agency that helps refugees assimilate to life in the Chicago area and a not for profit that empowers community renewal through neighborhood-based entrepreneurs. He has worked with a state program, which educates city and suburban kids on the business of working farms. He also provides pro bono legal services to organizations that provide assistance to Chicago's underserved communities.

Experience

Advised an Aviation Start Up Technology Developer

Defended an Airport in a High Profile Incident

Investigated a Fatal Crash of a Business Aircraft for the Aircraft Owner

Defended an International Component Part Manufacturer After a Helicopter Crash

Obtained a Voluntary Dismissal for an International Air Carrier Support Vendor

Successfully Defended the Owner of a Warbird Aircraft Involved in a Crash

Successfully Represented the Owner of a Corporate Aircraft in a Commercial Dispute

Has Successfully Enforced Contractual Provisions for FBO's and Airports

Membership & Involvement

- Member: American Bar Association; Michigan Bar Association; Chicago Bar Association; Aviation Insurance Association; Cook County Mandatory Arbitration Program (Chairperson)
- Board of Directors: Chicago Area Business Aviation Association
- Adjunct Professor: Lewis University, Aviation Legislation

Honors

- Martindale-Hubbell AV® Preeminent™ rated
- Selected to the Illinois Super Lawyers list: 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023
- Selected by the Leading Lawyers Network as a "Leading Lawyer" in aviation and transportation defense law

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- Selected to *The Best Lawyers in America*® in Aviation Law: 2024

Firm News

105 Amundsen Davis Attorneys Recognized by Best Lawyers® in 2024 in America
Firm News, August 17, 2023

Amundsen Davis Attorneys Included in the 2023 Illinois Super Lawyers and Rising Stars List
Firm News, *Amundsen Davis*, January 23, 2023

30 SmithAmundsen Attorneys Included on 2022 Illinois Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists
January 28, 2022

27 SmithAmundsen Attorneys Included on 2021 Illinois Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists
January 29, 2021

24 SmithAmundsen Attorneys Included on 2020 Illinois Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists
January 29, 2020

29 SmithAmundsen Attorneys Included on 2019 Illinois Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists
January 24, 2019

27 SmithAmundsen Attorneys Included on 2017 Illinois Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists
SmithAmundsen, January 13, 2017

28 SmithAmundsen Attorneys Included on 2016 Illinois Super Lawyers and 2016 Illinois Rising Stars Lists
SmithAmundsen, January 8, 2016

Illinois Super Lawyers & Illinois Rising Stars Names 26 SmithAmundsen Attorneys to 2015 List
January 12, 2015

Illinois Super Lawyers & Illinois Rising Stars Names 19 SmithAmundsen Attorneys to 2013 List
January 3, 2013

In the Media

FAA proposes nearly \$2M fine against drone operator - WGN Interviews Brandt Madsen

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Where there are drones, lawyers soon follow - *Crain's Chicago Business* Interviews
Brandt Madsen

Emergency Demystified - Brandt Madsen Quoted in Flying Magazine Article

Alerts

UAS Integration Program - Up And Running

Bristol-Meyer Squibb: The Death of "Forum Shopping" or "Same Old-Same Old"

SmithAmundsen Attorney Registers First Pilot's Bill of Rights Victory: Airman Back
in the Air Within 60 Days

Thoughts on Drones: The View from the Bench

FAA Preemption – A New Chapter Is Being Written

Deadline Approaching to Comply with Drone Registration

Super Bowl, No Drone Zone – What's Next?

Speaking Engagements

Liability Related to Cabin Air Quality
Eleventh Annual McGill Conference; Dublin, Ireland, October 19, 2018

Products Liability
Tenth Annual McGill Conference on International Aviation Liability and Insurance;
Montreal, Quebec, June 22, 2017

How Can I Use My Drone In My Business?
Illinois Chamber of Commerce, Webinar, March 24, 2016

Construction Law Power Seminar: Critical Legal Updates Impacting the
Construction Industry in 2016
SmithAmundsen, Lombard, IL, February 11, 2016

Published Works

Everything You Need to Know about Drones in Two Minutes or Less
USLAW Magazine, Spring 2016

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