

# Alan L. Farkas

Chicago, IL

312.455.3800 | afarkas@amundsendavislaw.com



## OF COUNSEL

### Overview

Not long ago the future of an international aircraft manufacturer's business was on the line. It had been drawn into a federal wrongful death/product liability case that was the first of its kind to ever go trial. After three weeks defending the manufacturer in federal court, Alan Farkas obtained a defense verdict, saving the manufacturer's business and, likely, the business of many others like it. In fact, Alan was so persuasive in his defense that one of the jurors bought one of manufacturer's aircraft following the trial.

Alan has been successfully litigating complex, high profile aviation and commercial matters like this for more than 20 years. He advises corporations, pilots, airports, and municipalities on regulatory and statutory compliance, formation and organization and liability protection. In the courtroom, he defends clients against claims of negligence, breach of warranty, premises liability and product liability related most often to personal injuries, death or property damage. His clients operate through the U.S., Europe and Australia. Alan has also become deeply involved in representing pilots and manufacturers of model aircraft, drones, and unmanned aerial systems (UAS).

Alan has also been quite effective when litigating on behalf of our transportation clients. Among other matters, Alan has successfully litigated commercial transportation disputes, international shipping disputes, loading and unloading injuries, and a variety of catastrophic personal injury claims.

Alan is regarded as a tenacious trial lawyer who employs a creative, efficient and strategic approach to his cases. He maintains a philosophy that all parties to a legal issue should be dealt with fairly and respectfully.

Prior to joining Amundsen Davis, Alan founded and operated the highly respected aviation litigation firm, Madsen Farkas & Powen. Alan served for eight years as Village Trustee in Deerfield, Illinois, and is a member of the Legal Advisory Council of the Experimental Aircraft Association.

### SERVICES

Aerospace  
Business Litigation  
Litigation & Trial Review Panel  
Product Liability  
Public Entities  
Real Estate, Zoning & Public Finance

### EDUCATION

Washington University School of Law, J.D., 1993  
University of Denver, B.A., 1990

### ADMISSIONS

Illinois  
Indiana  
Missouri

## Experience

Defended Various Claims Brought by a Disgruntled Airport Hangar Tenant

Defended an International Airline Accused of Defaulting on an Aircraft Sale and Finance Agreement

Advised an International Equipment Manufacturer on Corporate and Employment Advice

Submit a Brief to the Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit

Represented a Large Aircraft Association Against the FAA

Successfully Defended an Owner and FBO at Trial

Advised an Aviation Start Up Technology Developer

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

Defense of a Cessna 421 Plane Crash

Obtained a Not Guilty verdict Defending Against Fraud, Defamation, and Alleged Breaches of Non-Compete Agreements

Defense of Cessna Citation in a Breach of Contract and Fraud Federal Jury Trial

Secured Approval of Helipad After Hearings With Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and Lawsuit in Cook County

Defended a National Restaurant Franchisor in a Discrimination Lawsuit

Successfully Defended Client Against Declaratory Judgment and Breach of Contract

Defense of Two Police Officers Accused of False Arrest

Jabiru Aircraft Prevails in Defense

## Membership & Involvement

- Board Member: Educational Foundation of the Chicago Area Business Aviation Association (CABAA)
- Charter Member: Aviation Law Institute of America (ALIA)
- Past President: Aviation Law Committee of the Chicago Bar Association
- Fellow: American Bar Foundation, inducted 2018

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- Committee Member: Drone Committee of the Flight School Association of North America
- Member: Chicago Bar Association; Illinois State Bar; American Bar Association; The Missouri Bar; Women in Aviation International; Airport Counsel International – North America; Lawyer Pilot Bar Association; Pi Sigma Alpha; Phi Kappa Sigma; Claims and Litigation Management Alliance; 7<sup>th</sup> Circuit Bar Association; EAA Legal Advisory Council

### Honors

- Martindale-Hubbell AV® Preeminent™ rated
- 40 Illinois Attorneys Under 40 To Watch, Law Bulletin Publishing Company, 2005
- Senior Fellow, Litigation Counsel of America
- Selected to the Illinois Super Lawyers list: 2009, 2010, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024
- Selected by the Leading Lawyers Network as a "Leading Lawyer" in aviation law and transportation defense law

### Firm News

Amundsen Davis Attorneys Included in the 2024 Illinois Super Lawyers and Rising Stars List

Firm News, January 25, 2024

Amundsen Davis Attorneys Included in the 2023 Illinois Super Lawyers and Rising Stars List

Firm News, *Amundsen Davis*, January 23, 2023

30 Amundsen Davis Attorneys Included on 2022 Illinois Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists

January 28, 2022

Alan Farkas Steps Down as Chairman of Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Legal Advisory Council

*EAA*, July 30, 2021

27 Amundsen Davis Attorneys Included on 2021 Illinois Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists

January 29, 2021

24 Amundsen Davis Attorneys Included on 2020 Illinois Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists

January 29, 2020

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Alan Farkas Named a Member of the AIA Eagle Society  
April 15, 2019

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

Alan Farkas Attends Oshkosh 2018  
August 15, 2018

27 Amundsen Davis Attorneys Included on 2017 Illinois Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists  
Firm News, *Amundsen Davis*, January 13, 2017

28 Amundsen Davis Attorneys Included on 2016 Illinois Super Lawyers and 2016 Illinois Rising Stars Lists  
Firm News, *Amundsen Davis*, January 8, 2016

Fitness Club's Music So Loud Neighbors Can 'Shazam' Songs 3 Floors Up  
*DNAinfo*, November 11, 2015

AeroSports Update: Is Mandated Aircraft Liability Insurance In Our Future? - *Aero News Network* Mentions Alan Farkas  
*Aero News Network*, September 16, 2015

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

*Chicago Daily Law Bulletin* Government Host Spotlight: Alan Farkas  
*Chicago Daily Law Bulletin*, March 2014

### In the Media

Alan Farkas Recognized with the 2022 EAA Chairman's Award

Old Republic's Liability Policy Not 'Draconian,' Ill. Court Says – *Law360* Article Mentions Alan Farkas, Mike Resis, and Ellen Green

Indiana Switching to Uniform Bar Exam in July – *The Indiana Lawyer* Features and Quotes Alan Farkas

Alan Farkas Quoted in *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin* About Emergency Landing on Lakeshore Drive

Bloomberg BNA Interviews Alan Farkas in "Airsick: Flight Crews Venting in Court About Toxic Fumes"

Widow's Suit Over Plane Crash Allowed to Proceed - *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin* Mentions Mike McGrory and Alan Farkas

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Aero-News Update: The Other Shoe Drops – EAA Files Brief in *EAA v FAA* Fee War

National Business Aviation Association Discusses Pilot's Bill of Rights with  
Commentary From Alan Farkas

## Alerts

Liability Falls Out of Favor for Aircraft Owners

Social Media & Municipalities: A Roundtable with Our Municipal Attorneys

Attention All 134.5 Operators, Your FAA Inspector Is Coming

What Did You Miss At Oshkosh 2017?

A Roundtable with Amundsen Davis's Municipal Attorneys

Lawsuit Over MH370 Not Likely to Survive Long

One Stoplight and Two Drones: Unmanned Aircraft in Small Town America

What Did You Miss at Oshkosh 2016?

Hazmat in the Mailroom?

The Future Isn't What It Used to Be in Federal Court: Technology, Jurors Play  
Larger Role

Long-Overdue Reforms Come To The Federal Rules

## Speaking Engagements

FAA Enforcement Process

Speaking Engagement, EAA; Webcast, September 22, 2022

Strategies for Limiting, and Protecting Yourself from, Liability as an Aircraft  
Owner or Renter

EAA; Webcast, October 15, 2020

Legal Issues in Buying and Selling GA Aircraft

EAA, Webcast, August 12, 2020

Airport Responsibility and Enforcement of FAA Grant Assurances

Aviation Law Symposium, January 24, 2020

Drone Law: What You Need to Know Now! New Rules and Legal Best Practices for  
the Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems

National Business Institute; National Video Webcast, February 12, 2019

Fundamentals of Buying and Operating Business Aircraft

Amundsen Davis, Seminar, Chicago, IL, September 20, 2016

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Pilot's Bill of Rights: II  
EAA AirVenture, Oshkosh, WI, July 30, 2016

FAA's New Compliance Philosophy  
Experimental Aircraft Association; Webinar, May 17, 2016

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

Effective Use of Animations in Aviation Litigation & Claim Resolution  
AVICON Aviation Claims Conference; RTI, Annapolis, MD, September 10, 2015

Navigating Legal Traps to Protect Your Certificate and Your Aircraft  
Women in Aviation Annual Conference, Dallas, TX, March 6, 2015

### Published Works

Attorney: LHFE Programs In Danger Due To Misperceptions  
*Aero News Network's 'Propwash' Daily News Brief*, October 14, 2019

Have You Seen My Factual Report?  
*Lawyer-Pilots Bar Association Journal*, Fall 2018

Hey Alexa, Can I Introduce Your Evidence At Trial?  
*The Circuit Rider*, April 2018

Your Legal Advisory Council - Dedicated To Keeping You Safe And Legal  
*EAA Sport Aviation Magazine*, October 2017

One Stoplight and Two Drones: Unmanned Aircraft in Small Towns  
*Illinois Municipal League Review*, April 26, 2017

Reflections on the New FAA Compliance Philosophy  
Publication, *Experimental Aircraft Association*, July 7, 2016

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