

Matthew Leigh is a Partner in the Global Transport Practice of Smith, Gambrell & Russell, LLP.

Mr. Leigh specializes in structured asset finance and leasing acting for banks, financial institutions, lessors and operators in a wide range of jurisdictions.

Mr. Leigh has substantial experience of big-ticket cross-border transactions, with a particular focus on the aviation sector. He has advised on a wide range of financing and leasing structures, including pre-delivery, export credit-supported and tax-based structures in addition to domestic and cross-border sales of individual aircraft and portfolios.

Mr. Leigh has represented many of the industry's leading banks and lessors active in aviation finance on some of their most complex transactions undertaken in the Asia-Pacific region.

In 2019, Airline Economics recognized Mr. Leigh as one of the top 40 leading aviation professionals under 40 years.

Representative Experience:

- Advising Australia and New Zealand Banking Group and 14 syndicate banks in relation to US\$600m term and revolving facilities for SMBC Aviation Capital.
- Advising Pembroke Capital Limited on its structured portfolio sale of five aircraft to KOTAM. The transaction established KOTAM's aircraft leasing platform. *Airline Economics Aviation 100 New Leasing Entity Deal of the Year 2019.*
- Advising Deutsche Bank AG in relation to the industry's inaugural green financing of commercial aircraft for three ATR 72-600 aircraft for Avation leased to Braathens Regional Airlines. *Airline Economics Aviation 100 Editor's Deal of the Year for Innovation 2019. Airfinance Journal Innovative Deal of the Year 2019.*
- Advising UBS AG in connection with its Asia corporate jet lending platform.
- Advising JP Lease and Stratos Aircraft Management in relation to the JOL Air US\$554 ABS acquiring 15 aircraft and the first ABS to feature a Japanese operating lease structure. *Airfinance Journal ABS Deal of the Year 2019.*
- Advising China Development Bank in relation to a US\$275m loan facility to refinance the acquisition of one A380 aircraft for a Comsys vehicle facilitating a structured leasing transaction with Veling and Emirates. *Airfinance Journal China Deal of the Year*



Contact

p: +44 (0) 20 7084 9261

m: +44 (0) 7510 467094

e: mleigh@sgrlaw.com

Areas of Practice

Global Transport
Banking/ Financial Institutions
Financial and Commercial
Transactions
Equipment Leasing
International Law

Bar Admissions

Solicitor, England & Wales

for Cross-Border Financing 2018. Airline Economics Aviation 100 Editor's Deal of the Year 2018.

- Advising Malaysia Airlines Berhad in relation to its fleet restructuring which was one of the largest ever undertaken by a national carrier.
- Advising DVB Bank SE and syndicate banks in relation to a US\$205m seven aircraft lease portfolio refinancing for Minsheng. *Airline Economics Aviation 100 Refinancing Deal of the Year 2016.*
- Advising The Korea Development Bank and KDB Asset Management in relation to a US\$210m senior loan facility and a ₩75b junior note issuance to finance one A380 aircraft delivered to Asiana Airlines.