



Sebastian M. Smith

Partner

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OVERVIEW

Sebastian Smith is a partner in the firm's Tokyo office. He has wide-ranging aviation experience and regularly advises leasing companies, financial institutions, export credit agencies, institutional lenders, and airlines in respect of cross-border aircraft finance and leasing transactions. He has significant experience with the JOL and JOLCO market in Japan and has niche expertise in advising on aircraft Unit Leasing Device (ULD) rental/sale and lease back agreements. He has also overseen due diligence on M&A transactions/joint ventures for aircraft leasing and banking clients.

In addition to his asset finance experience, Sebastian has general banking experience and has advised Barclays Capital on a finance transaction for investments into Indonesia.

One client praises him as an '*extremely experienced and hard negotiating aviation counsel*' (Chambers & Partners, 2019).

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Sebastian previously worked at a Magic Circle law firm in London. During his tenure there, he was seconded to both Airbus and RBS Aviation Capital (now named SMBC Aviation Capital).

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Recommended by Best Lawyers for Asset Finance Law in Tokyo & Japan (2020)
- Advised on Aviation 100 Asia-Pacific Debt Deal of the Year (2019), Airline Economics
- Advised on Aviation 100 Asia-Pacific Overall Deal of the Year (2019), Airlines Economics
- Advised on "ABS Deal of the Year" AirFinance Journal Awards (2019)
- Recommended as key contact by Legal 500 (2019 and 2020)
- Listed as a "Rising Star" by Expert Guide: Aviation (2019 and 2020)

- Listed amongst “Band 2” practitioners for Banking & Finance: International Firms: Asset Finance (Japan) by Chambers Asia-Pacific Guide (2019 and 2020)
- Recommended by Legal 500 (2018) as a JOLCO specialist in Japan
- Listed as a “Foreign Expert based in Japan” in Chambers Global 2017 Guide for Foreign Experts (2017)
- Listed as a “Rising Star” by AirFinance Journal (2014)

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Tokyo AirFinance Engine Round Table, Panel Member, 2017

EDUCATION

- Legal Practice Course, Nottingham Law School, 2003
- PgDL, Nottingham Law School, 2002
- M.Eng., University of Edinburgh, 2001 (*Mechanical Engineering with Management*)

ADMISSIONS

- Japan (Dai-ni Tokyo Bar Association (Gaikokuho-Jimu-Bengoshi - registered foreign lawyer))
- Solicitor of the Senior Courts of England and Wales
- Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (British Virgin Islands) (non-practicing)

LANGUAGES

- English
- French

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP POWERED BY HUB

- 18 January 2019, Cleared to Land: Aviation Newsletter
- August 2018, Cleared for Landing (*Alerts/Updates*)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

ARTICLES- JAPANESE LAW

- Japan: Loan signing and Drawdown (CPs) Q&A, Practical Law, February 2018
- Japan: Waiver & Consent Letter Q&A, Practical Law, July 2017
- Japan: Comfort Letters Q&A, Practical Law, July 2017
- Japan: Corporate Loan Facilities Q&A, Practical Law, July 2017

PUBLICATIONS-INTERNATIONAL

- UAE: More Gold From the Desert, Cleared to Land, K&L Gates Aviation Newsletter, January 2019
- Argentina: Silver Skies, Cleared to Land, K&L Gates Aviation Newsletter, January 2019
- India: Legal Documentation & Changes Arising As a Result of the Collapse of Kingfisher, Cleared to Land, K&L Gates Aviation Newsletter, August 2018

NEWS & EVENTS

- 1 July 2020, K&L Gates Aviation Finance Practice Recognized with Multiple Deal of the Year Honors During *AirFinance Journal Awards (Rankings & Recognitions)*
- 12 June 2019, K&L Gates Assists on First-of-its-Kind Japanese Operating Lease Asset-Backed Security Transaction (*Press Release*)
- 6 February 2019, Legal 500 Recognizes K&L Gates in 2019 Asia Pacific Guide (*Press Release*)
- 18 April 2018, *Airfinance Journal* Ranks K&L Gates as Top Law Firm for 2017 JOL/JOLCO Transactions (*Press Release*)
- 4 October 2017, K&L Gates Advises on Tokyo Century Corporation (*Noteworthy Work*)

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Aviation Finance
- Debt Capital Markets
- Maritime
- Restructuring and Insolvency
- Securitization and Structured Finance

INDUSTRIES

- Aviation
- Transportation and Logistics