



Sidanth Rajagopal

Partner

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OVERVIEW

Sidanth Rajagopal is a partner in the London finance team and is a practice group coordinator of the global banking and asset finance group. He is part of the aviation finance team operating out of London and Dubai. As an aviation finance lawyer, he is recognised as having experience in a broad range of complex cross-border aviation finance matters. Sidanth provides key commercial and technical advice throughout the deal cycle, but counsels clients in the following key areas; financing, leasing, purchasing, restructuring and repossessions for both commercial aircraft (fleet and individual) and business jets and also works alongside clients on equity capital markets and debt capital market transactions. This experience includes innovative financing structures involving Sharia-compliant aircraft leasing, insurance-backed finance, PDP financing and structuring majority share purchases in AIM listed entities, setting up funds focused on aviation assets and other aviation business acquisitions.

Although experienced across various geographies, Sidanth is best known as a prominent aviation finance lawyer in South East Asia, the Middle East and Africa. Correspondingly, Sidanth global clientele include emerging and established airlines, leasing companies, private equity investors, and asset financing banks.

Sidanth has been recognised by leading aviation industry commentators. In recognition of his practice, he is the recipient of Airline Economics 40 under 40 in 2018. Earmarked as a thought leader in the field, commentary on him included, 'A flock of satisfied clients wrote of his "tremendous commercial understanding on the issues which leads to innovative solutions" as well as his dedication to "deliberate improvement" and "progressive excellence". Sidanth is also named in Legal 500, Indian Business Law Journal, Asia Law Leading Lawyers and Who's Who Legal. Sidanth's market insights is consistently solicited by the aviation industry and he regularly speaks at industry conferences and contributes to industry publications.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Prior to joining the firm, Sidanth was a partner in the London office of an international law firm, where he concentrated his practice on aviation finance. He has also been a partner at the Dubai and New Delhi offices of an international law firm.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Listed in Airline Economics 40 under 40, 2018
- Leading lawyer in Aviation, Expert Guides - Aviation, 2014 - 2019
- Leading lawyer in Aviation, Who's Who Legal, 2012
- Leading lawyer in Aviation, Asia Law Leading Lawyers, 2013
- Leading lawyer in Aviation, India Business Law Journal 2015- 2018
- Leading lawyer in Aviation, Corporate Jet Investor
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EDUCATION

- LL.B., University of Pune, 2005
- B.S.L., University of Pune, 2003

ADMISSIONS

- Solicitor of the Senior Courts of England and Wales

LANGUAGES

- Hindi
- Tamil (India)

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- 18 May 2020, COVID-19: Aviation Bailout - An Overview of Aviation Industry Stimulus Programs Globally (*Research Surveys*)
- 23 March 2020, COVID-19: Hard Landing: How the Coronavirus Shutdown May Infect Global Aviation Finance (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 18 January 2019, Cleared to Land: Aviation Newsletter (*Research Surveys*)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- "Letters of Intent: Are you (un)intentionally bound?" *Airline Economics*, April-May 2018
- Airline Economics: The Indian National Aviation Policy 2016: An Analysis.

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)*
- 19 July 2018, K&L Gates Advises Vietjet on Nearly \$20 Billion Boeing, Airbus Aircraft Orders (*Noteworthy Work*)
- 30 January 2017, K&L Gates Boosts Aviation Finance Practice with London Team Hire (*Press Release*)

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Aviation Finance
- U.S. National Security Law and Policy

INDUSTRIES

- Aviation
- Transportation and Logistics