



Robert E. Melson, Jr.

Practice Area Leader - Finance

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OVERVIEW

Robert Melson works extensively with clients doing business across Asia. Robert's practice focuses on corporate and international finance, especially in the areas of aircraft and equipment leasing, equipment finance, project finance, mergers and acquisitions, real estate finance, sovereign lending, and high tech ventures.

Robert is recognized as a leading lawyer for asset finance in *Chambers Asia-Pacific* and has been since 2008. He has also been recognized in *Chambers Asia-Pacific* banking and finance since 2009 and is currently recognized in band 1 for Japan, Banking & Finance: International Asset Finance in addition to being recognized for Aviation Finance since 2015. According to *Chambers Asia-Pacific*, Robert is described by one peer as "very much a leading player for aviation finance." He has over two decades of experience in asset finance, frequently acting for major clients on cross-border deals. *Chambers Asia-Pacific* states that he "is appreciated for his 'wealth of experience' in cross border asset finance deals and 'meticulous attention to detail' in complicated cases." He has also been listed as a leading aviation lawyer in *Expert Guides - Aviation* since 2013 and received an "Individual All-Star" award in the Transportation sector at *The Asian Lawyer All-Star Awards 2014*.

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- America Japan Society, Member of the Council; Sports Committee Chairman
- American Chamber of Commerce in Japan, Chair of Special Events Committee
- New York State Bar Association
- American Bar Association

EDUCATION

- J.D., Harvard Law School, 1997 (*cum laude*)
- B.A., Yale University, 1994 (*magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa*)

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of Hawaii (Inactive)
- Bar of Massachusetts (Inactive)
- Bar of New York
- Japan (Dai-ni Tokyo Bar Association (Gaikokuho-Jimu-Bengoshi - registered foreign lawyer))

LANGUAGES

- English
- Japanese

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP POWERED BY HUB

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

NEWS & EVENTS

- 30 July 2020, *AirFinance Journal* Ranks K&L Gates a Top Law Firm in 2020 Legal Survey (*Rankings & Recognitions*)
- 1 July 2020, K&L Gates Aviation Finance Practice Recognized with Multiple Deal of the Year Honors During *AirFinance Journal* Awards (*Rankings & Recognitions*)
- 23 September 2019, K&L Gates Further Enhances Aviation Finance Practice with Addition of New York, Miami Partner Pair (*Press Release, Practice & Regional News*)
- 12 June 2019, K&L Gates Assists on First-of-its-Kind Japanese Operating Lease Asset-Backed Security Transaction (*Press Release*)
- 18 February 2019, K&L Gates Receives Multiple Recognitions at *Global Transport Finance Awards* (*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*)
- 26 May 2016, K&L Gates, Lawyers Earn Honors in Chambers Global, Regional Guides (*Press Release*)
- 31 July 2015, K&L Gates Again Advises Republic of Indonesia on Billion Dollar Eurobond Issuance (*Press Release*)

- 6 May 2015, K&L Gates, Lawyers Recognized as Leaders in Chambers Global Guides (*Press Release*)

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Aviation Finance
- Corporate, Acquisition, and Asset-Based Finance
- Debt Capital Markets
- Fintech Lending
- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Oil and Gas
- Real Estate Finance
- Restructuring and Insolvency
- U.S. National Security Law and Policy

INDUSTRIES

- Aviation
- Transportation and Logistics