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# Aviation Law: Cases And Materials



## Synopsis

This new casebook, the most comprehensive ever written about the subject, is sure to be a hit with both students and instructors. Unlike previous works, which have treated aviation law as a narrow and technical specialty, this text is driven by a broad and unique vision. Through the use of contemporary cases, extensive notes, intriguing problems, and frequent references to popular culture, it is the first to make clear just how large a role aviation plays in everyday life and explain why all lawyers can profit from having at least a passing familiarity with the field. The text's fresh and crisply written is organized into six chapters that can be taught as sequenced or in an instructor's preferred order. After an introductory chapter that explains the principles of flight, identifies the sources of aviation law, and reflects on the ethical challenges faced by aviation practitioners, the book proceeds to look at the legal issues surrounding aircraft, airmen (pilots, mechanics, flight attendants), airlines (both passenger and cargo), and airports. Inside the book users will find 112 principal readings, 168 notes, 25 problems, and 30 appendices. The principal readings are drawn from a rich variety of sources, including cases, law review and bar journal articles, newspaper reports, and legislative and executive pronouncements. The notes both expand on the principal readings and provide commentary on additional issues and subjects. The problems, one for each section, allow students to quickly determine if they have successfully mastered the materials they have just read. And the appendices reproduce the most important air treaties from Paris (1919) and Warsaw (1929) to Montreal (1999) and Cape Town (2001); thereby further increasing the book's utility and flexibility (while obviating the need for students to purchase and carry with them a separate statutory supplement). A particularly distinguishing feature of the book is its focus on the social history of aviation. Thus, sprinkled liberally throughout the notes are references to the men and women who have become part of aviation lore, including the Wright Brothers, Charles Lindbergh, Amelia Earhart, Howard Hughes, Chuck Yeager, D.B. Cooper, and Jessica Dubroff. Also covered are notable historical incidents, such as the 1948 Berlin Airlift, the 1960 U-2 spy plane crisis, the 1976 Entebbe Airport raid, and the 1983 U.S.S.R. shoot-down of a civilian airliner. As one would expect, special attention is paid to 9/11 and its aftermath from the renaming of Newark International Airport to the numerous changes that have been made in boarding procedures to the dispute over how to compensate the victims and their families. The notes also draw heavily from popular culture. Thus, students learn not only from treaties, cases, and statutes, but from such varied and fun fare as Erica Jong's *Fear of Flying*, Donald Trump's *The Apprentice*, and that TV show "about nothing" (*Seinfeld*). As a result, students are far more likely to come to class prepared, excited, and eager to participate.

Lastly, the Teacher's Manual will help both new and experienced instructors get the most out of the book. In addition to comprehensively analyzing the text, it offers tips for preparing extra credit assignments, leading field trips, tapping guest speakers, and incorporating video clips into class presentations.

## **Book Information**

Hardcover: 976 pages

Publisher: Carolina Academic Press (March 27, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1594600309

ISBN-13: 978-1594600302

Product Dimensions: 1.5 x 7 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,431,581 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #58 in [Books > Law >](#)

[Specialties > Air & Space](#) #7403 in [Books > Humor & Entertainment > Pop Culture > General](#)

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## **Customer Reviews**

There are really only two "casebooks" for aviation law in U.S. law schools. This one and "Aviation Law: Cases, Laws, and Related Sources." I have used both of them. In general, I believe the latter is a better all-around introduction but probably not the best for use in the classroom. In short, if you are not a law student but a lawyer that requires thorough introductory materials then I recommend the other book. In this case, I also recommend the treatise: Aviation Tort & Regulatory Law by West Group. If you are a law student or law professor teaching aviation law, then I recommend this book. My reasoning is that this book is best suited for the three month semester class and achieving the objectives of learning the basics of aviation law. For the student who is more interested in aviation law, the notes at the end of each section provide for further information on the related subject matter, such as law review articles, cases, regulations or statutes. That said, I have a couple of problems with this book: First, the introductory chapter is absolutely terrible and essentially useless. To tell the reader about the history of aviation, the authors felt it acceptable to simply copy and paste this information from Wikipedia. I give them credit for having the audacity to not only do this but also to let you know that they did this by citing to it. This is weak. The introduction could have been used to provide commentary on the various aviation organizations involved, such as the roles

of the U.S. Department of Transportation (economic), FAA (safety) and NTSB (investigative). Instead, the introduction's section on "Sources of Aviation Law" is a bundle of cases and articles that don't provide anything coherent or usable.

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