



ICAO

CALAF

ICAO 4th Civil Aviation Legal Advisers Forum
27 to 29 May 2026 | Nassau, Bahamas

Hosted by



PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME

The Future of International Civil Aviation: Legal Trends and Institutional Resilience
 Venue: **Grand Baha Mar Ballroom, Grand Hyatt Baha Mar Hotel, Nassau, The Bahamas**

Tuesday 26 May 2026

14:00 – 17:00	Registration and badge pickup (Baha Mar Grand Ballroom Foyer)
17:00 – 19:00	Pre-conference Arrival and Registration Reception TBC

DAY 1 – Wednesday, 27 May 2026

7:00 – 9:20	Registration and badge pickup (Baha Mar Grand Ballroom Foyer)	Continental Breakfast (Salon 3)
Open Attendance		
9:30 – 10:30 (Salon 4)	Opening Ceremony¹ - Honourable Minister responsible for civil aviation, The Bahamas - Juan Carlos Salazar , Secretary General of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) - Chequita M. Johnson , Director General, Civil Aviation Authority Bahamas - Michael Gill , Director, Legal Affairs and External Relations Bureau, ICAO	
10:30–11:15 (Salons 1 & 5)	Group Photo Session (Salon 4) Refreshment Interlude	
11:15–12:15 (Salon 4)	Panel 1 – CAA Leaders Roundtable United Skies – Regional Solidarity and Stakeholder Synergy for a Safer, Smarter, and Sustainable Future for Aviation Senior aviation leaders from across regions will explore collaborative approaches to advancing global aviation priorities. This high-level panel will highlight the importance of regional cooperation, including between States with similar priorities, and strategic engagement with industry stakeholders to enhance safety, foster innovation, and promote sustainability. Through shared experiences and forward-looking dialogue, participants will examine how unified efforts can strengthen institutional resilience and shape a more integrated and responsive aviation ecosystem and chart a forward-looking path for the global aviation sector. The session will highlight the contributions of prior CALAF Host administrations and showcase the growing leadership of women at the helm of civil aviation in their States. Moderator: Alice Serpa Braga , Attorney for Federal Agencies, Attorney’s Office, National Civil Aviation Agency, Brazil, and Chairperson of the ICAO Legal Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Chequita Johnson, Director General, Civil Aviation Authority Bahamas (CAA-B) The Bahamas ▪ Ana Cristina Rodrigues Vieira da Mata, President of the Board of Directors, Portuguese Civil Aviation Authority (ANAC), Portugal 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Andile Mtetwa-Amaeshi, Director General, Eswatini Civil Aviation Authority (ESWACAA), Eswatini ▪ Diana Shurland, Board Director, Barbados Civil Aviation Authority, Barbados ▪ Paola Plá, Deputy Director, Instituto Dominicano de Aviación Civil (IDAC), Dominican Republic
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¹ Note: Director of Ceremonies, **Tiffany Reid**, Training and Development Officer, Civil Aviation Authority, Bahamas

DAY 1 – Wednesday, 27 May 2026	
12:15–13:30 (Salons 2 & 3)	<h2 style="color: #4F81BD;">Lunch Interlude</h2>
13:30–15:00 (Salon 4)	<p>Panel 2</p> <p>Emerging Litigation Trends in Aviation and Impacts on International Air Law Treaties [“From Conventions to Courtrooms- the legal evolution of global air law”]</p> <p>This session will explore how evolving disputes, ranging from passenger rights and personal injury claims, financing disputes, and environmental accountability, unruly passenger incidents to cybersecurity breaches, are reshaping the global air law landscape. It will examine the growing complexity of cross-border litigation and enforcement, the influence of legislatures and national courts on treaty interpretation, and the pressure these developments place on established treaty frameworks such as the Montreal Convention, Cape Town Convention and the Chicago Convention. By analysing recent case law and regulatory responses as well as legislative actions, the discussion will highlight how those trends challenge uniform interpretation of treaties and whether current treaties can adapt to new challenges or require modernization to maintain uniformity and predictability in international air law.</p> <p>Moderator: George Leloudas, Professor, Institute of International Shipping and Trade Law, Swansea University</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Robert Lawson KC, Quadrant Chambers - Llewellyn Boyer-Cartwright, Founding & Managing Partner Harley James Law firm - Ricardo M. Martinez-Cid, Partner, Podhurst Orseck - Juan Carlos Menció, Vice President Legal Affairs and Compliance, LATAM Airlines - Anita Quy, Partner, Kennedys, Singapore
15:00 – 15:30 (Salons 1 & 5)	<h2 style="color: #4F81BD;">Refreshment Interlude</h2>

<p>15:30 – 16:30 (Salon 4)</p>	<p>Panel 3 Shaping Legal Frameworks for Liberalized Air Transport: Regulatory Policies and Partnerships for a Resilient, Sustainable and Inclusive Future This panel will explore the legal and regulatory issues associated with the liberalization of international air transport, with a forward-looking perspective on the upcoming ICAO Seventh Worldwide Air Transport Conference (ATConf/7). Panellists will discuss the challenges, opportunities, and mechanisms for liberalization, focusing on the modernization of air service agreements, market access, air carrier ownership and control, and open skies policies. Associated issues, including consumer protection, fair competition, taxation, and the economic oversight of airports and air navigation services, will also be addressed. The session will examine how innovation, sustainability, and emerging technologies are reshaping legal frameworks, and consider strategies for adapting institutional structures to support a fair, efficient, and resilient global air transport system.</p> <p>Moderator: Steven Truxal, Director, Institute of Air and Space Law, Leiden University</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vasco Vieira, Legal Adviser, African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) - Jae Woon Lee Professor, Faculty of Law, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR and Third Vice-Chairperson ICAO Legal Committee (Republic of Korea)
<p>18:00 – 20:00</p>	<p>Welcome Cocktail Venue: John Watling’s Distillery (Shuttles will depart from and return to the Baha Mar Hotel)</p>

DAY 2 – Thursday, 28 May 2026

<p>07:00 – 09:30 (Salon 3)</p>	<p>Continental Breakfast – Open to All</p>
<p>Open to Civil Aviation Authorities</p>	
<p>8:00 – 9:30 (Salon 4)</p>	<p>Panel 4 Counsels Roundtable: Tenacity in Turbulence: Reflections on a Challenging Role in Advising This roundtable brings together experienced legal advisors to reflect on the demanding and multifaceted nature of their role in civil aviation. Through real-world scenarios and professional insights, the session will explore the legal complexities of dealing with a variety of crises and competing objectives with other entities and providing sound counsel under pressure, often with limited information and heightened political sensitivities. The discussion will highlight the resilience and judgment required of aviation legal professionals who navigate high-stakes environments to uphold legal integrity and institutional stability while maintaining the intricate balance between legal rigor and pragmatic counsel.</p> <p>Moderator: Michael Gill, Director, Legal Affairs and External Relations Bureau, ICAO</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mary Tufano Eche, Director Legal Services/Company Secretary, Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA), Nigeria - Jonathan Aleck, Executive Manager, Legal, International and Regulatory Affairs, Civil Aviation Safety Agency (CASA), Australia - David Dueñas, Head of Legal Department, Civil Aeronautics Board, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Chile - Wayne Tyrell, Senior Legal Adviser/Assistant Company Secretary, Irish Aviation Authority (IAA)

<p>9:30–10:00 (Salon 4)</p>	<p>Spotlight 1 Aviation Security Risk Landscape in 2025-2026 As 2026 marks the 25th anniversary of September 11, this commentary offers a timely opportunity to examine the aviation security risk outlook for 2025–2026 while reflecting on lessons learned over the past quarter century. The security environment is undergoing rapid transformation, driven by geopolitical instability, technological innovation, and emerging threat vectors. The presentation will highlight evolving risks, including cyberattacks, insider threats, and vulnerabilities linked to unmanned aircraft systems, and explore the role of technology and law in shaping global aviation security measures. Attendees will gain actionable insights into emerging challenges and strategies to strengthen resilience against acts of unlawful interference against civil aviation.</p>
<p>Open Attendance</p>	
<p>10:00 – 11:00 (Salon 4)</p>	<p>Panel 5 The Rising Tide and Global Reach of Passenger Rights Legislation – Fragmentation to Harmonization With the proliferation of national and regional passenger rights laws, this panel will examine the growing risk of legal fragmentation in international air transport. Topics include overlapping obligations under regional and national legislations (such as EU Regulation 261/2004, the U.S. Air Carrier Access Act, Canada’s APPR) and consider implications for multimodal transport. Panelists will assess the feasibility of harmonized standards, the role of treaty and ICAO provisions, and the legal implications for airlines operating across jurisdictions. The session will also explore enforcement challenges, liability gaps, and the potential for a global passenger rights framework. Moderator: Doug Mullen, Acting Senior Vice President & Chief Legal Officer, Airlines for America (A4A) Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Martine de Serres, Assistant General Counsel, Customer Regulatory and Resolution, Air Canada - Daniel Wand, 4 Kings Bench Walk Chambers, London, United Kingdom - Marco Ramazotti, Legal Adviser, Italian Civil Aviation Authority (ENAC) - Ricardo Bernardi, Partner, Bernardi and Schnapp Advocates, Brazil - Diego Olmedo, Partner, PionAirLaw, Spain
<p>11:00 – 11:30 (Salons 1 & 5)</p>	<p>Refreshment Interlude</p>

DAY 2 – Thursday, 28 May 2026

Open Attendance

<p>11:30 – 12:30 (Salon 4)</p>	<p>Panel 6 Data Protection in International Air Carriage: Legal Challenges, Regulatory Divergence, and Opportunities for Resolution</p> <p>As civil aviation operations increasingly depend on the timely exchange of passenger data across borders, the legal and regulatory complexities of data protection have become a central concern for States and industry stakeholders. This panel will not only examine these challenges in theory but will also draw on real-world experiences to illustrate their practical impact. Panelists will show how divergent national privacy laws, such as the GDPR and other regional frameworks, affect international air carriage, particularly in relation to passenger name records (PNR), advance passenger information (API), and other protected data. Through case examples and lessons learned, the discussion will highlight how air carriers and authorities have grappled with conflicting obligations, operational delays, and compliance risks in live scenarios. Building on the findings of the recent ICAO survey of Member States and the work of the ICAO Secretariat Study Group on Data Protection Laws (SSG-DPL), the panel will share insights into how States are implementing data protection obligations, managing cross-border compliance risks, and navigating tensions between privacy, sovereignty, and operational continuity. Practical experiences will underscore the complexity of reconciling legal conflicts and demonstrate opportunities for harmonization, mutual recognition, and enhanced regulatory cooperation, all in support of secure and seamless air transportation.</p> <p>Moderator: Alejandro Piera, Partner, Guanes, Heisecke & Piera (GHP) Advocates, Paraguay</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jasmin Fabré Jiménez, Legal Director, Civil Aviation Board (JAC), Dominican Republic - Auguste Hocking, Director Legal Services Regulatory and Governance, International Air Transport Association (IATA) - Captain James Ball, Legal Committee Chair, International Federation of Airline Pilots Association (IFALPA) - Erika Varga, Legal Officer, Legal Affairs and External Relations Bureau, ICAO
<p>12:30 – 13:45 (Salons 2 & 3)</p>	<p>Lunch Interlude</p>
<p>13:45 – 14:15 (Salon 4)</p>	<p>Spotlight 2 Shaping Aviation Insurance for Emerging Aerospace Risks</p> <p>This presentation will explore how aviation insurance frameworks are adapting to the evolving risk landscape in aerospace operations. With the rise of advanced air mobility (AAM), unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), artificial intelligence (AI), and cyber threats, traditional insurance models face new challenges in underwriting, liability allocation, and regulatory compliance. The presentation will address questions such as the adequacy of existing insurance instruments under international air law; the role of States and regulators in ensuring minimum coverage and financial responsibility alongside and cross-border liability issues and the impact of privatized service providers.</p> <p>Presenter: Roland Küsters, Senior Underwriter & Senior Legal Counsel, Munich-Re</p>

DAY 2 – Thursday, 28 May 2026

Open Attendance

<p>14:15 – 15:15 (Salon 4)</p>	<p>Panel 7 State Responsibility for Airports and Air Navigation Services in the Modern Age This panel will examine the evolving scope of State responsibility for airports and air navigation services in an era of increasing privatization, automation, public-private partnerships, regional arrangements, and cross-border operations. Furthermore, across many regions institutional reforms have advanced the structural separation of regulatory oversight from the operation of airports and air navigation services to enhance transparency, reduce conflicts of interest, and strengthen safety oversight. As infrastructure ownership and service provision diversify, questions of liability for safety, security, and compliance have become more complex. Panelists will explore how international conventions, national laws, and contractual frameworks allocate responsibility among States, operators, and third-party providers, and consider the implications for accountability when failures occur. The discussion will highlight emerging legal trends and practical approaches to ensuring clarity and consistency in liability regimes for critical aviation infrastructure.</p> <p>Moderator: Siew Huay Tan, Director Special Projects (International Air law), Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS), Singapore</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Keith Major Jnr, Legal Counsel, Bahamas Air Navigation Services Authority (BANSAs) - Chester Salazar del Pozo, Representative of Ecuador on the ICAO Council - Camille Royes, General Counsel & Company Secretary, MBJ Airports Limited, Jamaica - Lina Albahouth, Senior Legal Specialist, General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA), Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
<p>15:15 – 15:45 (Salons 1 & 5)</p>	<p>Refreshment Interlude</p>
<p>15:45 – 16:15 (Salon 4)</p>	<p>Spotlight 3 A conversation on legal perspectives - The Sky Is Not the Limit: Legal Implications of Suborbital and Near-Space Operations This session examines the complex legal challenges posed by suborbital and near-space activities, including the applicable regime for hybrid activities. It explores how these challenges could affect regulatory classification, liability, passenger safety, and international obligations, highlighting the need for appropriate governance frameworks to support safe, sustainable, and commercially viable operations in this emerging frontier.</p> <p>Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Christopher Petras, Legal Officer, Legal Affairs and External Relations Bureau, ICAO - James Jason Murray, Founder of OffWorld Inc California, Founder & CEO of Booster Industries Belgium & Commercial Space Operations Consultant to CAA-B, The Bahamas - Regula Dettling-Ott, Fellow, SHALE Swiss Hub for Air and Space Law and Economics, World Trade Institute University of Bern, Switzerland
<p>16:15 – 16:45 (Salon 4)</p>	<p>Book Club Conversation with the Editors on the Commentary on the Chicago Convention/Routledge Steven Truxal, Director, Institute of Air and Space Law, Leiden University</p>
<p>18:00 – 20:30 (Salon 4)</p>	<p>Gala Dinner</p>

DAY 3 – Friday, 29 May 2026	
07:00 – 09:30 (Salon 3)	Continental Breakfast – Open to All
Open to Civil Aviation Authorities	
08:00 – 09:00 (Salon 4)	<p>Panel 8</p> <p>Groups Breakout Session: Legal Guardians of Flight: Enabling legal advisory excellence in civil aviation, driving capacity, governance and global alignment for air law</p> <p>Building on previous editions in Singapore (2019), Oman (2023) and London (2024) this session will evaluate the progress made towards highlighting and enhancing indispensable role of legal counsel in aviation governance through recruitment training and regular engagement in ICAO activities and sustaining the CALAF initiative. The Breakout Groups will develop customised and collectively actionable proposals to enhance legal capacity, transparency, future proofing and international alignment for the civil aviation legal advisory role.</p> <p>Moderator: Andrew Opolot, Legal Officer, Legal Affairs and External Relations Bureau, ICAO</p> <p>Coordinators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jae Woon Lee Professor, Faculty of Law, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR and Third Vice-Chairperson ICAO Legal Committee (Republic of Korea): Asia and Pacific (APAC) States - Maria Makalla Mamba, Director Legal Services, Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA): and Fourth Vice-Chairperson ICAO Legal Committee: Eastern and Southern Africa, Western Africa (ESAF/WACAF) States - Wayne Tyrell, Senior Legal Adviser/Assistant Company Secretary, Irish Aviation Authority (IAA): Europe and North Atlantic (EUR/NAT) States - Jasmin Fabré Jiménez, Legal Director, Civil Aviation Board (JAC), Dominican Republic: North American, Central American and Caribbean and South American (NACC/SAM) States
09:00 – 10:00 (Salon 4)	Plan of actions – Next steps After Nassau - Group Presentations

Open Attendance

<p>10:00 – 11:30 (Salon 4)</p>	<p>Panel 9 Regulatory Readiness for Emergent Aviation Technologies and Risks</p> <p>Part 1: Enabling and regulating innovation: Certification, Oversight, and legal readiness for emerging aviation technologies This segment equips civil aviation legal advisers with a practical, non-technical overview of how emerging technologies are enabling civil aviation and how legal and regulatory frameworks support their safe integration. It examines where automation, advanced analytics, AI-assisted systems, advanced air mobility (AAM) concepts, remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS), and digital monitoring tools already intervene across aircraft operations, air traffic management, maintenance, and safety oversight, highlighting the points at which legal advisers most commonly engage with their implications. The discussion further addresses how States and regulators are adapting certification, approval, and oversight processes for emerging aviation technologies, including questions of regulatory discretion, delegation of functions, human-machine interaction, and continuing oversight. It also considers the ICAO safety management framework, including Safety Management Systems (SMS) and Safety Information Protection under Annex 19, as foundational enablers of data-driven and technology-based aviation operations. Particular attention is given to the role of legal advisers in aligning State and industry innovation and investment objectives with clear, robust accountability and responsibility mechanisms</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - William “Liam” McKenna, Chief Counsel, United States Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) - Alexander Sudbury, the Head of the Safety Operations Legal Team, Civil Aviation Authority, United Kingdom (UK CAA) - Jacqueline Serrao, Principal and Attorney at Law, Legal Capacity Building and Aerospace Consulting, Jacqueline E. Serrao, LLC - Jake Phillips, Senior Vice President and General Counsel, Legal & Compliance, GE Aerospace - Mildred Troegeler, Executive Liaison to ICAO, Boeing <p>Part II: When aviation technologies fail: Liability, responsibility and legal consequences in the face of automation Building on the regulatory and operational discussion, this part addresses the legal consequences that arise once emerging technologies are operational and contribute to incidents or operational disruptions, including in relation to AI-enabled and other technology-dependent systems. It explores how liability, responsibility, and enforcement frameworks respond when automated or technology-dependent systems fail or do not perform as intended and contribute to incidents or operational disruptions, including issues of attribution among States, operators, manufacturers, and service providers. The segment further examines implications for investigations, attribution, insurance, and contractual risk allocation, and considers whether existing liability regimes remain fit for purpose as aviation systems become increasingly automated and data-driven.</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mohammad Salem, Alternate Representative of United Arab Emirates on the ICAO Council - Paul Alp, Partner, Adams & Reese, LLP
<p>11:30 –12:00 (Salons 1 & 5)</p>	<p>Refreshment Interlude</p>

DAY 3 – Friday, 29 May 2026

Open to Civil Aviation Authorities

12:00 – 12:30 (Salon 4)	Closing <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Michael Gill, Director, Legal Affairs and External Relations Bureau, International Civil Aviation Organization- Kenneth Romer, Director of Aviation, Bahamas Department of Aviation
14:00 – 17:00	Heritage-Cultural-and Culinary Highlights Tour* <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Tour departs from and returns to the Baha Mar Hotel <p><i>*On-site registration is required on a first-come, first-served basis. Spaces are limited.</i></p>