



KRISTEN J. CHMIELEWSKI

PARTNER

EXPERTISE

Aviation & Asset Finance
Aircraft & Engine Purchases & Sales
Operating & Finance Leases
Secured Debt Transactions
Warehouse Facility Transfers
Contracts

BAR ADMISSIONS

Illinois, 2011

COURT ADMISSIONS

U.S. District Court, Northern
District of Illinois, 2012

CONTACT

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WORK EXPERIENCE

Before starting GC Aero Law, LLP, with Lynne Gochanour in 2018, Kristen J. Chmielewski served as Of Counsel to Asset Finance Legal Counsel, LLP, where Lynne was a partner.

Immediately prior to joining Asset Finance Legal Counsel, Kristen was an associate at the Chicago office of Vedder Price P.C. and a member of the global transportation finance team. Kristen gained extensive experience working on aircraft, rail and other equipment financing transactions, including secured financings, leases, sales, lease novations, beneficial interest transfers and other types of assignments, export credit agency financings, multi-asset debt facilities and portfolio securitizations, and lease portfolio diligence and sales.

Prior to joining Vedder Price P.C., Kristen was an associate at the Chicago office of Chapman and Cutler LLP, where she was a member of the bankruptcy, reorganizations and workouts group, with a concentration on airline bankruptcies. She previously served as a law clerk for the City of Chicago Legal Department in the Aviation, Environmental, Regulatory and Contracts division and was a judicial extern for Judge Susan Zwick in the Law Division of the Cook County Circuit Court.

Aside from legal experience, Kristen began her career in aviation as a finance intern at AAR Corp. in Wood Dale, IL in 2003 and 2004. She also worked as an aviation journalist for MiD Day Multimedia Ltd. in Bangalore, Karnataka, India covering one of the country's first ground-up privatized airports (BIAL) and other Indian civil aviation topics. Kristen continues her predilection for journalism through various publications in the International Society of Transport Aircraft Trading magazine, Jetrader. In addition, Kristen has a passion for flying and is currently pursuing her private pilot's license.

Kristen serves on the Board of Trustees of the ISTAT Foundation and has been named as one of Super Lawyers "Rising Stars."

EDUCATION

- J.D. 2011, cum laude, Northwestern University School of Law, Chicago, Illinois
- B.S. 2007, magna cum laude, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee
- Kristen is fluent in Spanish.

MEMBERSHIPS

- Board Member, Northwestern Law Alumni Club of Chicago
- Member, International Society of Transport Aircraft Trading (serves on the Board of Trustees for the ISTAT Foundation and as Chair of the Ambassador Program, Member of the Scholarship Committee and Member of the Internship Committee under the ISTAT Foundation)
- Member, Chicago Area Business Aviation Association
- Member, American Bar Association, Forum on Air and Space Law
- Member, Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago
- Member, Vanderbilt University CoRPs Commodore Recruitment Program