

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Aviation Consumer Protection Advisory Committee



Meeting of the Aviation Consumer Protection Advisory Committee (ACPAC)
Speakers Biographical Information
June 29, 2022

Kyle Joseph, DOT Senior Trial Attorney

Kyle Joseph is a Senior Attorney in the Department's Office of Aviation Consumer Protection. Kyle began his career at the DOT as an Honors Attorney, working with the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, and the Office of Aviation Consumer Protection, where he worked permanently for several years on high-profile consumer protection and civil rights matters. Earlier this year, Kyle re-joined the Office from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), where he handled complex employment and labor litigation cases. He received numerous awards for his contributions to both the FAA and DOT. Before law school, Kyle worked as a Legislative Correspondent for US Senator Richard Durbin (IL). He holds a law degree from the University of Southern California and a BA in Political Science from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

Edmund Mierzwinski, Senior Director, Federal Consumer Programs at U.S. Public Interest Research Group

Ed Mierzwinski has worked in the Washington, DC-based federal lobbying office of the Federation of State Public Interest Research Groups (U.S. PIRG) since 1989. He often lectures or testifies before Congress, state legislatures and agencies on a wide range of consumer protection and competition issues, including the Fair Credit Reporting Act, and has been involved in all significant FCRA policy amendments since 1989. He has published reports on numerous consumer issues. He was awarded Consumer Action's "Special Recognition Award" in 2021, the Consumer Federation of America's "Esther Peterson Consumer Service Award" in 2006, Privacy International's "Brandeis Award" in 2003, and numerous "Top Lobbyist" awards. He is the U.S. co-chair of the Steering Committee of the TransAtlantic Consumer Dialogue. He sits on several nonprofit boards and recently completed 12-years (4 three-year terms) on the board of Consumer Reports (formerly Consumers Union--the world's largest consumer product testing and advocacy organization). He is a graduate of the University of Connecticut (BA, MS) and previously was Executive Director of the Connecticut PIRG.

Paul Hudson, President of FlyersRights.org

Paul Hudson is President of FlyersRights.org, the largest airline passenger organization. He has been a public interest advocate for over 30 years and has been president of FlyersRights.org since 2003. He is a longtime member the FAA's Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee (1993-present) representing the public and advising the FAA on air safety regulation, and a former member of the FAA/TSA Aviation Security Advisory Committee (1997-2007). From 2001 to 2013, he represented victims of lengthy tarmac confinements in a series of court cases. Paul resides in Florida and Maryland with his wife Donna and is a frequent air traveler throughout the US and internationally.

Diana Moss, President of the American Antitrust Institute

Diana Moss became the President of the American Antitrust Institute in January 2015 and has been with AAI since 2001. Her work spans both antitrust and regulation, with industry expertise in digital technology, electricity, petroleum, food and agriculture, airlines, telecommunications, and healthcare. From 1995 to 2001, Dr. Moss served in the Office of Economic Policy and Office of Markets, Tariffs, and Rates at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and prior to that, she consulted in private practice in the areas of regulation and antitrust. Dr. Moss is also Adjunct Faculty in the Department of Economics at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Dr. Moss has spoken widely on various topics involving competition policy and enforcement, testified before Congress, appeared before state and federal regulatory commissions, at industry and academic conferences, and made numerous radio and television appearances. She has published articles in numerous economic and legal journals, is editor of Network Access, Regulation and Antitrust, and has contributed chapters to The Structure of American Industry and the Global Competition Review's (GCR's) The Guide to Merger Remedies. She holds an M.A. from the University of Denver and a Ph.D. from the Colorado School of Mines.

Jeremy Sandford, Executive Vice President of Compass Lexecon

Jeremy Sandford is Executive Vice President of Compass Lexecon and an antitrust economist. Prior to joining Compass Lexecon, he spent seven years as an economist in the FTC's Bureau of Economics. Before the FTC, he was an assistant professor of economics at the University of Kentucky, in Lexington. Sandford received a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Wisconsin - Madison and a B.A. in economics and Spanish from Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, Illinois. He is also an adjunct professor at Johns Hopkins University. His research interests lie in industrial organization, antitrust and competition economics, and applied microeconomic theory.

Erin Secatore, Senior Vice President of Compass Lexecon

Erin Secatore is a Senior Vice President at Compass Lexecon based in Boston. Ms. Secatore came to Compass Lexecon from a large international law firm where she specialized in labor and employment law, spending the majority of her time representing clients in the airline industry on a variety of matters. At Compass Lexecon, Ms. Secatore has worked on a range of matters in the airline industry, including topics related to airline ticket distribution, labor and employment, general commercial disputes, and the impact of COVID-19 on the aviation industry. Ms. Secatore holds a JD from New York Law School where she graduated summa cum laude with the Otto L. Walter Award for Distinguished Writing and the Joseph A. Solomon Award for Excellent Character and Fitness.

Jeff Lobl, Managing Director of Global Distribution and Omnichannel Strategy at Delta Air Lines

Jeff Lobl is Managing Director of Global Distribution and Omnichannel Strategy for Delta Air Lines. He is responsible for Delta's commercial relationships with Global Distribution Systems, Online Travel Agencies and Meta search partners (e.g., Google, Kayak). In addition, he is responsible for driving Delta's Omnichannel strategy and efforts to deliver high quality, customer-centric experiences across all of Delta's internal and external distribution channels. Prior to his current role, Jeff served as Managing Director of Customer Care for Delta Air Lines, responsible for managing Delta's worldwide service recovery efforts, as well as overseeing Delta's refunds operation and quality control effort. Jeff was born and raised in Pittsburgh. He earned a Master of Business Administration from the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota, and a bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota.

Eric Hall, Director, B2B Channels & TMC Strategy at Southwest Airlines

Eric has spent 15 years in the airline space, having worked at Frontier, AirTran and now Southwest. His career began in revenue management, but the last decade has been spent in distribution strategy. After playing a role in the merger of AirTran into Southwest, Eric joined Southwest Corporate Sales in 2014. Today, Eric is part of the growing Southwest Business Team where he leads the B2B channel strategy and travel agency relationships team.

Mike Liptak, Vice President of Government Relations at The Travel Technology Association (Travel Tech)

Mike Liptak is Vice President of Government Relations at The Travel Technology Association (Travel Tech), where he manages a broad government and regulatory affairs portfolio in support of the independent travel distribution industry. Prior to joining Travel Tech, Mike spent five years as Director of Government Affairs for the National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association, representing our nation's aggregate industry while highlighting the importance of maintaining and expanding a strong infrastructure throughout the United States. He also spent five years with a small, but aggressive consulting and lobbying firm developing strategies for policy implementation and identifying federal grant opportunities. Originally from Western Pennsylvania, Mike served as a legislative aide to U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell (KY) and worked on several House and Senate campaigns in Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and Washington. He is a graduate of Grove City College.

Martin Nolan, General Counsel & Company Secretary at Skyscanner

Martin Nolan is Skyscanner's General Counsel & Company Secretary, responsible for all Legal, Public & Regulatory Affairs for the business. Having joined the company in 2017, Martin leads on all legal matters for the company, devises Skyscanner's Public and Regulatory Affairs strategy, and advises on matters of policy and regulation and potential impact on disruptive technology businesses, the platform economy and the travel industry. Martin is also responsible for helping to shape Skyscanner's products and services for compliance with all consumer-facing laws worldwide and is an advocate for Skyscanner's "traveler first" approach to technology in travel. Prior to joining Skyscanner, Martin was a General Counsel of a cyber security technologies business.

Kirsty Ireland, Global Lead: Policy and Public Affairs at Skyscanner

Kirsty Ireland is the Global Lead: Policy and Public Affairs at Skyscanner. Having joined Skyscanner in 2013, Kirsty's role focuses on leading, shaping and executing the company's Public and Regulatory Affairs strategy globally. Her role within Public and Regulatory Affairs sees her devising strategy across a number of policy areas including aviation, digital technology, platform economy, and consumer regulation. The role sees her conducting regular engagement with policy makers and regulators at both national and regional levels. During her time at Skyscanner Kirsty has worked across multiple areas throughout the business, previously leading strategy and Communications for Skyscanner's Commercial and Business facing arm. Kirsty holds an MA in International Relations as well as a master's degree in Political Communications.

Phil Nicholas, Vice President, Chief Counsel and Head of Government Affairs for Amadeus North America

Phil Nicholas is Vice President, Chief Counsel and Head of Government Affairs for Amadeus North America, Inc., a subsidiary of Amadeus IT Group, S.A., a global leader in the travel IT sector. Phil has served as in-house counsel with Amadeus in a number of capacities for the past 24 years, overseeing Amadeus' legal operations in the Americas. Phil earned his law degree from the University of Miami where he also serves as an adjunct professor in the Litigation Skills and Business Law programs.