



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Aviation Consumer Protection Advisory Committee

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Members Biographical Information

State or Local Government Representative

Mike Hilgers, *Attorney General of Nebraska*

Mike Hilgers was sworn in as Nebraska's 33rd Attorney General in January 2023. In this role, he leads the state's efforts in consumer protection, public safety, and the defense of constitutional structures. Before taking office, he spent six years in the Nebraska Legislature, representing the people of Northwest Lincoln and Lancaster County and serving his last two years as Speaker of the Legislature. During his tenure, he introduced and passed a wide variety of legislation to help Nebraskans across the State, from protecting constitutional rights to protecting water supplies to supporting law enforcement. Prior to public office, Mr. Hilgers was an experienced private-practice attorney and a successful entrepreneur. He was in private practice for over fifteen years, handling complex litigation and discovery disputes in State and Federal courts. After practicing at a large law firm, he founded his own litigation law firm. Before leaving his practice for public office, the firm had over 100 professionals and handled cases around the country. He began his legal career clerking for Judge Edith Clement on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. He graduated from the University of Chicago Law School, where he was an editor of the law review.

Consumer Representative

Jennifer C. Rykaczewski, *Chief Executive Officer, Affordable Skies*

Jennifer C Rykaczewski is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Affordable Skies, a national organization dedicated to strengthening the role of traveler voices in the future of aviation. She leads the organization's work in traveler education, research, advocacy, and engagement with government, industry, and consumer organizations. In 2026, Ms. Rykaczewski was appointed by U.S. Secretary of Transportation Sean Duffy to serve as the Consumer Representative on the U.S. Department of Transportation's Aviation Consumer Protection Advisory Committee (ACPAC), where she represents the interests of air travelers in discussions on aviation consumer protection. Ms. Rykaczewski has experience in business development, strategic leadership, market research, and government relations. She has also held senior roles in political campaigns, including fundraising director, lead strategist, and campaign manager. Her leadership was recognized with the 2015 ATHENA International Young Professional Leadership Award. She holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA). Ms. Rykaczewski previously served as President of the National War College Spouses' Club and as Administrative Treasurer of the Air & Space Forces Spouses' Club (ASFSC).

Airport Representative

Mark VanLoh, *Chief Executive Officer, Jacksonville Aviation Authority*

Mr. VanLoh assumed the role of Chief Executive Officer for the Jacksonville Aviation Authority in December 2018. He oversees the operation, maintenance, development and marketing of all Authority assets, including Jacksonville International Airport, Cecil Airport/Spaceport, Jacksonville Executive at Craig Airport and Herlong Recreational Airport. He provides policy recommendations to the JAA Board of Directors and serves as the primary Authority representative to the community. Prior to joining JAA, Mr. VanLoh served as President and CEO of the Tulsa Airports Authority and as the Director of Aviation for the Kansas City Aviation Department. He began his career with Pan American Airlines after serving in the U. S. Army. Mr. VanLoh is active in industry trade associations, including the Airports Council International (ACI) and the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE), and currently serves on the Board of Directors of the International Association of Airport Executives. He graduated from Minnesota State University with a Bachelor of Science in Aviation Management, Business Management, and Industrial Relations, and a Minor in Economics.

Airline Representative

Doug Lavin, *Vice President for North America, IATA*

As the Vice President of IATA North America, Mr. Lavin represents the interests of more than 370 IATA member airlines before the US and Canadian Government. He and his team address various issues impacting IATA member airlines, including safety, security, facilitation and environment, consumer protection and disability rights, economic regulation, charges, taxes, and distribution. Mr. Lavin's career path spans both public and private sectors. Before joining IATA, he served at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) as the Assistant Administrator for the Office of International Aviation from 2003 to 2005. Immediately prior to his FAA service, Mr. Lavin was Vice President of Portfolio Management for American Express, which followed positions at AT&T and the US Department of Commerce. He is a graduate of the Boston University School of Law, where he was a member of the Law Review, and received his BA from the University of New Hampshire.

Designated Federal Officer (DFO)

Ryan Patanaphan, *Acting Deputy Assistant General Counsel*

Mr. Patanaphan has served as an attorney at the U.S. Department of Transportation Office of Aviation Consumer Protection (OACP) since 2014, managing enforcement and rulemaking matters. In 2026, he stepped into the role of Acting Deputy Assistant General Counsel and Designated Federal Officer for the Aviation Consumer Protection Advisory Committee (ACPAC). A recognized subject-matter expert on aviation economic licensing requirements, he co-leads enforcement in this area and has spoken at industry events. Previously, he served as an FAA enforcement attorney representing the agency before National Transportation Safety Board administrative law judges. Mr. Patanaphan holds degrees from Johns Hopkins University and the Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, where his award-winning note on airline foreign ownership restrictions was published in the *Ohio State Law Journal*.