



ALAANZ COUNCIL MEMBERS



Patrick Hornby – President ALAANZ, ACT Branch

Patrick is the Manager, Legal Services, at the Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB). He practises across a wide range of areas that encompass coronial inquests, civil litigation, commercial matters, administrative matters and legislative development and drafting.

Working with the ATSB, he has particular subject matter expertise in transport accident investigation. Patrick was responsible for developing the amendments to the *Transport Safety Investigation Act 2003* which created the Bureau on 2 July 2009. He also negotiated and drafted the Casualty Investigation Code for Maritime Investigations which is annexed to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea.



John Ribbands – Immediate Past President ALAANZ, Victoria Branch

John was admitted to practice in 1987 and came to the Bar in 1988. He has an extensive practice in commercial and administrative law, appearing regularly in the Federal Court and the Supreme Court in all states. Through his own prior experience in aviation (a little bit of flying and a lot of skydiving) he has developed an extensive practice in aviation related matters.

John has obtained a Masters in Aviation (Human Factors) from Swinburne University. He advises and appears regularly in the AAT and Federal Court in regulatory and licensing disputes. His aviation practice involves appearing in inquests and inquiries. He has acted for both plaintiffs and defendants in numerous insurance, negligence and contract actions. He has appeared in aviation inquests for interested parties as well as acting as Counsel assisting. John is the current president of the Victorian Branch of ALAANZ.



Jessica Luppino – NSW Branch

Jessica is a litigation and disputes lawyer with extensive experience providing advice to key players in the aviation industry.

Jessica has represented airline insurers in litigated claims concerning fatalities and compensation arising from major aviation losses. Her litigation experience also includes defendant work concerning aviation accidents, personal injury claims against carriers for carriage under the Australian and international aviation liability regimes, ground handling commercial disputes and airport liability for property damage and personal injury.

Jessica has a comprehensive understanding of aviation specific insurance coverage and claims management. She also has an in-depth knowledge of regulatory matters concerning manned and unmanned aircraft.

Jessica is the current Chair of the ALAANZ NSW branch and prior to that held the position of secretary for 7 years. Jessica is also a member of Women in Aviation, Australian Chapter and is involved in organising and attending regular functions such as the annual Girls in Aviation Day.



Matthew Brooks – NSW Branch

Matthew Brooks is a partner in HWL Ebsworth's national transport group and has extensive experience in aviation, maritime and transport law.

Matthew represents many domestic and international airlines, and their insurers, in relation to a range of claims and disputes including passenger and third party claims, cargo claims, collisions, inquests, ticket wording, ground handling agreements, international conventions, coverage and contractual disputes. He also represents many of the general aviation domestic insurers responding to claims arising from casualty incidents. Matthew advises on emergency response to major incidents / casualties, responding to ATSB and Police investigations, and appearing at Coronial Inquests following fatal aircraft accidents. Matthew also provides non contentious commercial and regulatory advice, including aircraft purchase and maintenance agreements.

Matthew has been named in Best Lawyers™ Australia Transportation Law and is recognised as a pre-eminent aviation lawyer in the Guide to the World's Leading Aviation Lawyers. He is also selected in Who's Who Legal as being a Global Elite Thought Leader for Aviation Contentious and recommended for Aviation Regulatory. Matthew has been named in the latest edition of Expert Guides as a world leading lawyer for aviation, listed in Doyle's Guide as a Preeminent Aviation Lawyer, and listed in Chambers for Aviation Liability.



Richard Dealy – Queensland Branch

Richard is a Senior Underwriter at QBE Insurance (Australia). He manages a wide portfolio of risks from small General Aircraft to Larger Commercial Aircraft fleets and specialises in the area of Aviation related Liabilities.

Richard is the current Chair of the QLD Branch of ALAANZ and is an active industry participant regularly representing QBE at industry events such as the Avalon Airshow & Rotortech.

Having had a 35 year career within the Aviation Insurance Sector in both London and Australia, he has worked in many aspects of industry from Airline and General Aviation claims to Aviation Reinsurance Underwriting General Aviation Underwriting as well as Business Operations Management. He was responsible for coordinating the London Reinsurance market response to the World Trade Centre loss. These days, he is especially interested in and actively training the new generation of Aviation Underwriters at QBE.



Mark Sainsbury – Queensland Branch

Mark Sainsbury is a partner at Sparke Helmore Lawyers and is based in Brisbane. Mark is part of the large national commercial insurance practice at Sparke Helmore Lawyers. Mark has 20 years' experience in providing legal services to the aviation industry and its insurers. This includes defending personal injury and property damage claims and regulatory action at the instruction of individual pilots and owners, operators, local and overseas insurers, Lloyd's syndicates and government departments.

Mark is regularly instructed to defend claims arising from aviation incidents and accidents, including those involving catastrophic injury, fatalities and resulting nervous shock claims, as well as acting in coronial investigations and inquests. He also advises insurers on coverage relating to first party hull claims, property damage and passenger injury claims and dependency claims arising under the *Civil Aviation (Carriers' Liability) Act 1959 (Cth)*.

Mark has been an active member of the Aviation Law Association Australia and New Zealand for many years, including sitting on the Queensland branch committee and several National Conference organising committees. He is ranked in Best Lawyers 2024 for Insurance Law, Personal Injury Litigation, and Alternative Dispute Resolution.



James Cooper – Victorian Branch

James is a Special Counsel in Clyde & Co's Aviation and Marine Group, based in Melbourne. He has almost 20 years' experience in contentious and non-contentious matters working with Australian and International clients.

James has a wealth of international sector knowledge and experience, having previously worked in Clyde & Co's London aviation group. He has extensive experience representing airlines and their insurers in litigation arising from the carriage by air, including major losses such as Malaysia Airlines flights MH370 and MH17, and Germanwings flight 9525. He also advises on a range of aviation-specific regulatory, commercial and compliance issues, including aircraft lease agreements, licensing, ticketing, privacy requirements, and competition law rules.

James is consistently recognised for his work in the aviation industry, most recently by Chambers Asia Pacific for 'Aviation – Liability' and by Doyles Guide as a Leading Australian Aviation lawyer



Tim Coghlan – Victorian Branch

Tim is a principal at McCabe's in Melbourne. Tim practices primarily in general insurance matters including in the field of public and product liability and the defence of personal injury claims. He also works in the fields of marine and aviation. His clients are large insurers, self-insureds and private clients.

Tim has extensive experience in appearing in the Victorian Supreme Court, County Court, VCAT and Magistrates' Court, as well as experience in New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania, Queensland and Western Australia jurisdictions.

Tim holds a Bachelor of Journalism in addition to a Bachelor of Laws from Monash University. Tim was admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of Victoria on 13 August 2013 and is also admitted to practice in the High Court of Australia.

In the 2023 edition of the Best Lawyers in Australia, Tim was listed in the inaugural Ones to Watch category for Litigation. He has been recognised in Best Lawyers in Australia for Insurance Law in 2025 and Insurance Law and Product Liability Litigation in 2026.



Michael Nas – Western Australia Branch – Sabbatical Leave

Michael is a Principal at Bennett + Co, practising in commercial litigation and specialising in complex mining, corporate and technical disputes, appearing as junior counsel at trial in the Western Australian Supreme Court and the Federal Court. He is part of Bennett + Co's Defence & Aerospace team. Michael has studied the laws relating to drones since approximately 2007 and holds a Master of Laws (by Research) relating to global drone regulation.

Michael is the Vice-President of the Perth Branch of the Aviation Law Association of Australia & New Zealand and sits on the committee of the Perth Branch of the Royal Aeronautical Society – Australian Division. Michael is passionate about the role technology can play in society and has delivered presentations to various stakeholders and interest groups relating to drone technologies and regulations since 2016.



Aimee Dash- Western Australia Branch

Aimee is a partner in the commercial insurance team at Sparke Helmore. Specialising in liability and workplace health and safety matters in Western Australia, Aimee works with Australian and international insurers, brokers, underwriters and their insured entities as well as private clients ranging from local businesses to multi-national corporations and ASX listed companies.

Aimee's main practice focuses on defendant work in personal injury, medical malpractice, property damage and aviation disputes. In addition, Aimee assists clients with WHS incident investigations and in defending prosecutions.

Admitted as a solicitor of England and Wales in 2009, Aimee has a BA (Hons) in Law and History and a Graduate Diploma in Law and worked in commercial disputes for a firm in South West England for 8 years. Aimee moved with her young family to Perth in 2015 and practiced in WA as a foreign qualified lawyer until February 2019, when she was admitted as a solicitor in WA.

Aimee is also a member of Sparke Helmore's pro-bono team, organising and running indigenous wills clinics in rural WA, undertaking work for the Cancer Council, providing training to community organisations and assisting with Criminal Injury Compensation claims.



Duncan Ferrier – New Zealand Branch

Duncan practices as a Barrister at Capital Chambers in Wellington, New Zealand. He graduated in 1992 from Canterbury University with a BA and an LLB and in 2002 from Victoria University of Wellington with a Masters degree in law. While his practice incorporates a broad range of civil and public law litigation issues, his particular focus is on matters of transport and liability.

He acts for the New Zealand aviation and maritime regulatory entities, and has, from time to time, provided in house legal services to both of these organisations. Duncan advises and acts for insurers and other participants within the aviation and maritime industries



Amy Rodden - New Zealand Branch

Amy Rodden is Senior Legal Counsel at Air New Zealand, where she provides legal support across the airline's operations in New Zealand and its offshore offices in the Pacific Islands, Australia, North America, and Asia. She advises on a wide range of commercial and regulatory matters affecting the airline industry.

Amy joined Air New Zealand in 2017, following several years in private practice and other in-house legal roles. She holds a Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of Arts (Political Science) from the University of Canterbury and is admitted as a Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court of New Zealand.