

Taking the Risk Out of Risk:

An Indemnification Handbook

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GEORGE MCKEEGAN, ESQ.

George McKeegan has been a personal injury and general practitioner for more than 32 years, operating his own law firm in New York City. The firm is now known as Cavanaugh & McKeegan, based in Garden City, Long Island.

Mr. McKeegan graduated Fordham College and the University of Michigan Law School in the years 1969 and 1972, respectively. Upon graduation from law school, he became a New York State prosecutor and, thereafter, became associated with the law firm of Bigham Englar Jones & Houston, specializing in aviation law and serving as a trial attorney. He next joined the general counsel's staff at Citicorp, where he managed and supervised an array of litigation for Citibank.

In 1986, Mr. McKeegan established his own law firm in midtown Manhattan. Since then, he has served mostly as an aviation practitioner, primarily defending and advising major airlines in the claims and litigation context. Such work performed on behalf of his airline clients includes discovery, motion practice (pre- and post-trial), court conferences, trials, appellate activity, client presentations and general advice. He specializes in a variety of aviation- and contract-related matters, including indemnity and hold-harmless provisions, international air travel and related treaties, the "contract of carriage," federal preemption, refusal to transport, and insurance coverage for airlines and major aviation incidents.

During this period, Mr. McKeegan has often collaborated on and discussed a number of aviation and contractual issues with counsel and claims representatives at certain aviation underwriters, including but not limited to, indemnification and contractual interpretation. He and a co-author of this book, William Ranieri, collaborated on another book, entitled *A Handbook on Aviation Law*, published in 2017.

WILLIAM RANIERI, ESQ.

William Ranieri was most recently employed by a major, U.S.-based, underwriter (the "Company") for approximately 25 years (not including an intervening, five-year stint at a New York law firm).

For a period of almost two years, by way of promotion, he served as the Company's Director of Claims. In that capacity, Mr. Ranieri supervised approximately 60 claims professionals throughout multiple claims offices, including at the Company's headquarters in New York City and branch offices in the U.S. and Canada. He arranged monthly claims meetings and presentations, both internally and externally; reported to the Board of Directors regarding major claim developments and trials; and ultimately, assumed

responsibility for the handling, supervision, evaluation and/or disposition of virtually all aviation-related claims (mostly liability claims) asserted against (or by) the Company's aviation insureds, including major airlines, General Aviation concerns, owners/operators of aircraft, aviation product manufacturers or users, and other insureds in the aviation or aerospace business.

Mr. Ranieri's experience includes the review and analysis of a wide variety of issues implicated by his management of claims and litigation, including contractual issues. The concept of indemnification is of special interest to William. In this regard, he would regularly communicate and collaborate with outside defense counsel throughout the nation, particularly co-author George McKeegan of New York, in order to resolve challenging contractual (or quasi-contractual) issues, as early as possible in the claims or litigation process.

Mr. Ranieri was previously employed as an associate attorney with the law firm of Shearman & Sterling from 1991 to 1996 (in 1996 he rejoined the aviation insurer discussed above). He worked at Shearman & Sterling's New York City headquarters as a litigator, and its Abu Dhabi (UAE) office, as a corporate lawyer. In the firm's New York Litigation Department, he was involved in broad discovery and motion practice, as well as extensive trial preparation, handling significant commercial disputes as well as bankruptcy matters. While in Abu Dhabi, he was mainly responsible for the drafting, revision and administration of international oil and gas sales contracts, on behalf of the firm's principal client in that region, i.e., the UAE's national oil company.

Mr. Ranieri graduated in 1983 from the University of South Florida (USF), majoring in Business Management. And, he received a *juris doctor* degree in June 1991 from New York Law School, where he graduated *magna cum laude*, first in his class, and received several academic awards and scholarships. He is admitted to practice law in New York and New Jersey.

GLENN VALLACH, ESQ.

Glenn Vallach has been a Claims Attorney with United States Aircraft Insurance Group in New York, N.Y. since October 2012. In that capacity, he is the principal coverage analyst and contract review attorney for the company, and also manages a broad range of significant liability claims for the General Aviation, Manufacturing & Special Risks and Airlines claims divisions within USAIG. He serves on the Policy Language Revision Committee and the Subrogation Committee, and has been a Vice President with USAIG since 2014.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

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Mr. Vallach graduated *cum laude* from Boston College in 2005, double majoring in Political Science and History. He then graduated from Fordham University School of Law with a *juris doctor* degree in 2008.

In addition to his flourishing litigation and insurance career, Mr. Vallach is also an accomplished and frequently published college law professor. He has taught business law courses at Ramapo College of New Jersey since 2012, and before that, taught at Marymount Manhattan College from 2008 to 2009. In line with this, Mr. Vallach regularly publishes articles regarding business, law and tax in various scholarly articles along with his professor colleagues.

Lastly, Mr. Vallach is an active member of multiple legal, aviation and insurance related professional organizations, and thus has delivered presentations and spoken on panels at prominent conferences throughout the country, including: the Aviation Insurance Association Annual Conference; the National Business Aviation Association Business Aircraft Finance, Registration and Legal Conference; the DRI Annual Meeting; various American Bar Association annual section conferences and forums; the International Conference of Business and Applied Sciences Academy of North America; and AVICON. Glenn is a member of the National Business Aviation Association Regulatory Issues Advisory Group; the DRI Aviation Law and Corporation Counsel Committees; and the American Bar Association Litigation and Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Sections. He is also a contributor to the Aviation Insurance Association Education Committee.