

Ugochukwu J. Onwumelu

Associate

Tokyo
+81.3.6205.3607

Ugo.Onwumelu@klgates.com

OVERVIEW

Ugo Onwumelu is an associate in the firm's Finance practice. He advises banks, financial institutions, airlines, lessors, and liquidators on all aspects of commercial aircraft financing, aircraft leasing, novation, and sale and purchase transactions within the aviation sector. His experience extends to real estate finance and acquisition finance, as well as advising on business jet financing, ship financing, and rail financing across a range of jurisdictions including the UAE, China, Nigeria, Germany, Japan, Ireland, Panama, and the United States.

Ugo's practice includes working on a variety of financial products including private placements, securitization, operating and finance leases, and conditional sale transactions within the aviation, maritime, and rail sectors.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Ugo has advised airlines, lessors, financial institutions, and other stakeholders on transactions involving commercial aircraft, helicopters, business jets, shipping, and rail assets. He has led negotiations and documentation for significant cross-border deals, including export credit agency financings, major sale and novation transactions, and multi-jurisdictional refinancing structures.

His work often involves coordinating with local counsels across Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas and managing all aspects of deal execution from term sheet to closing.

In addition to his transactional work, Ugo has contributed thought leadership to industry publications including the *Tax Journal*, a leading UK publication that provides expert tax advice, and has been recognised for his academic and professional achievements.

Prior to joining the firm, Ugo worked in the asset and structured finance practice of a UK-headquartered international law firm.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Outstanding Academic Achievement Award from the University of Westminster, 2014

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Previously a trustee of the Legal Social Mobility Fund in 2023, a charity that provides financial assistance to aspiring lawyers in the UK.

EDUCATION

- M.A., King's College, London, 2018
- M.Law, University of Westminster, 2017
- LL.B., University of Westminster, 2016

ADMISSIONS

- Solicitor of the Senior Courts of England and Wales

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Aviation Finance