

Eiko L. Grieger

Partner

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OVERVIEW

Eiko Grieger is a partner in the firm's Finance practice. He focuses on aircraft, asset, equipment, and transport finance as well as infrastructure and acquisition finance. He has comprehensive experience in various kinds of complex domestic and cross-border transactions in Europe and Japan involving aircraft, rail, IT equipment, infrastructure, and leasing assets. He is involved in providing advice to banks, financial institutions, investors, closed-end investment funds, borrowers, high-net-worth individuals, and operators, as well as lessors and lessees in the aviation, infrastructure, rail, and public transport industries. He has worked on a variety of financial products, including Japanese operating leases (JOL), Japanese operating leases with call options (JOLCO), operating leases, finance leases, sale and leasebacks and portfolio sales, acquisitions, restructurings, and financings for multiple assets including rolling stock. As an IFR rated private pilot, he also has first-hand aviation experience.

Eiko joined the firm in January 2009 after working as a lawyer for another major international law firm in the fields of banking and finance. Prior to this, he worked abroad for a leading international consultancy in Japan.

In addition, he is a native German speaker and has practiced in Frankfurt for many years, during which time he advised major global lessors and financial institutions on lease and financing related transactions. As Eiko is also a Japanese speaker, he bridges the Japanese and the international financial markets.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Listed by *Lexology Index* as a Recommended Lawyer of Japan - Transport – Aviation, 2024-2025
- Ranked and mentioned in the Aviation category of the J*apan Law Firm Awards 2024*. Together with partners Bob Melson and Sebastian Smith, Eiko Grieger is recognized for his long-standing experience and expertise in the JOL and JOLCO markets.
- Eiko Grieger was named a partner of K&L Gates, as reported by *Aviation News Online* in connection with the firm's promotion of 26 new partners and government affairs advisors, 2024
- Recognized by *The Legal 500 Asia Pacific* as a Recommended Lawyer for Banking and finance: International firms and joint ventures in Japan, 2024

- Recognized in *Who's Who Legal*: Transport – Aviation Guide 2023 (Japan Chapter) for “highest-ranked Aviation lawyer”
- Involved in providing advice on Aviation 100 Asia-Pacific Debt Deal of the Year, Airline Economics, 2022
- Recognized in *Who's Who Legal*: Transport – Aviation Guide 2022 (Japan Chapter) for “outstanding work on high-value aviation finance transactions”
- Ranked 2nd in Asia-Pacific, European and Middle Eastern Markets - Airfinance Journal's Legal Survey, 2019-2023
- Listed as a Top Three Law Firm Globally for Aviation Finance in Airfinance Journal's Guide to Aviation Lawyers, 2018-2023
- Ranked Top Law Firm by Airfinance Journal based on the number of JOL/JOLCO transactions completed, 2017-2023
- Involved in providing advice on Aviation 100 Asia-Pacific Debt Deal of the Year, Airline Economics, 2019
- Involved in providing advice on Aviation 100 Asia-Pacific Overall Deal of the Year, Airlines Economics, 2019
- Involved in providing advice on “ABS Deal of the Year” Airfinance Journal Global Awards, 2019

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- International Society of Transport Aircraft Trading (ISTAT)
- German-Japanese Lawyers' Association

SCHOLARSHIPS

- Graduate of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) scholarship “Language and Practical Training in Japan.” (2000-2002)

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Moderator, “Alternative Lenders Fireside Chat,” Airline Economics Tokyo 2026, 15 April 2026
- Moderator, “Navigating OEM Production Challenges – Tariffs, Delays, and the Path to Recovery,” Ishka Tokyo 2025, 11 September 2025
- Moderator, “Asset Manager Best Practice,” Ishka Tokyo 2023, 6 September 2023
- Moderator, “JOLCO Panel,” Airline Economics Tokyo 2023, 18 April 2023
- Panel Member, Tokyo AirFinance Engine Roundtable 2017

EDUCATION

- Second Legal State Exam, Higher Regional Court of Hamburg, 2005
- First Legal State Exam, University of Konstanz School of Law, 2000
- Magister Juris, University of Konstanz School of Law, 2000

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of Frankfurt
- Japan (Dai-ni Tokyo Bar Association (Gaikokuho-Jimu-Bengoshi - registered foreign lawyer))
- Solicitor of the Senior Courts of England and Wales

LANGUAGES

- English
- German
- Japanese

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- 18 January 2019, Cleared to Land: Aviation Newsletter

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- UAE: More Gold From the Desert, Cleared to Land, K&L Gates Aviation Newsletter, January 2019
- Contribution on legal aspects of engine financing to ”Tokyo Engine Roundtable 2017: Leasing demand grows”, *AirFinance Journal* May 2017

NEWS & EVENTS

- 11 June 2025, Airfinance Global Recognizes K&L Gates as a Top Law Firm in the 2025 Legal Survey
- 16 September 2024, Airfinance Global Recognizes K&L Gates as a Top Law Firm in the 2024 Legal Survey
- 2 January 2024, K&L Gates Names Nearly 30 Partners, Government Affairs Advisors Across Firm
- 4 August 2023, *Airfinance Journal* Recognizes K&L Gates as a Top Law Firm in 2023 Legal Survey and Winner of Multiple Deal of the Year Awards
- 29 July 2022, Airfinance Journal Recognizes K&L Gates as a Top Law Firm in 2022 Legal Survey

- 16 July 2021, AirFinance Journal Recognizes K&L Gates as a Top Law Firm in 2021 Legal Survey and as a 2021 Deal of the Year Award Winner
- 30 July 2020, *AirFinance Journal* Ranks K&L Gates a Top Law Firm in 2020 Legal Survey
- 1 July 2020, K&L Gates Aviation Finance Practice Recognized with Multiple Deal of the Year Honors During *Airfinance Journal* Awards
- 12 June 2019, K&L Gates Assists on First-of-its-Kind Japanese Operating Lease Asset-Backed Security Transaction
- 6 February 2019, Legal 500 Recognizes K&L Gates in 2019 Asia Pacific Guide
- 18 April 2018, *Airfinance Journal* Ranks K&L Gates as Top Law Firm for 2017 JOL/JOLCO Transactions
- 4 October 2017, K&L Gates Advises on Tokyo Century Corporation
- 6 June 2016, K&L Gates Advises European Locomotive Leasing on Follow-up Financing with International Bank Consortium

OTHER MEDIA MENTIONS

- Quoted, “Legal Survey 2025: Products,” *AirFinance Journal*, 6 March 2025
- Mentioned, "Japan Law Firm Awards," *Asia Business Law Journal*, 10 December 2024
- “K&L Gates promotes Grieger,” *AirFinance Journal,* 1 September 2024
- Quoted, “Legal Survey 2024: Products,” *AirFinance Journal*, 22 August 2024
- Mentioned, "K&L Gates names 26 partners and government affair advisors," *Airline Economics*, 5 January 2024

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Aviation Finance
- Corporate and Acquisition Finance
- Fintech Lending
- Rail Finance
- Real Estate Finance

INDUSTRIES

- Aviation
- Financial Services

- Fintech
- Technology
- Transportation and Logistics
- Transportation Finance
- Transportation Infrastructure

EMERGING ISSUES

- Artificial Intelligence (AI)

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

Acting for Lessors

- Advised JP Lease Products & Services Co., Ltd. ("JP Lease") and Stratos Aircraft Management on a first-of-its-kind "JOL AIR 2019-1" aircraft lease asset-backed security (ABS) transaction in which JP Lease acquired 15 aircraft with an aggregate value of US$683.2 million from GE Capital Aviation Services and Pembroke Capital Aircraft, among others, involving eleven lessees in ten countries across three continents.
- Advised Tokyo Century Corporation (formerly Century Tokyo Leasing Corporation) ("TC") with its acquisition of 20% US-based aircraft leasing company Aviation Capital Group ("ACG"). Prior to the 20% acquisition by TC, ACG was a 100% subsidiary of Pacific Life Insurance. ACG's current portfolio is around 270 aircraft (mostly narrow-body planes) with plans to increase this to a portfolio of around 440. This deal was awarded 'Equity Deal of the Year Award' by Airline Economics in 2017.
- Advised TC in its capacity as a bidder in relation to the purchase of the aircraft-leasing business of CIT Group ("CIT"); the CIT fleet includes in excess of 350 commercial aircraft. We completed due diligence on both the lease and loan portfolio, including the provision of a detailed due diligence report with a summary of our findings. The portfolio is estimated to be worth US$10 billion.
- Advised AerCap as German counsel in connection with multiple aircraft sale and operating lease transactions and ongoing aircraft and aviation related matters.
- Advised AerCap on lease extension and amendment agreements for five Airbus A330.
- Advised a leading Irish aircraft lessor in connection with the insolvency of Air Berlin.
- Advised a Japanese leading lessor on sale and purchase transactions involving Boeing 737-800 and Embraer ERJ-190 aircraft on lease to KLM/KLM Cityhopper.
- Advised an aircraft lessor in Japan in respect of the sale and purchase of one Boeing 737-8K5 aircraft and the lease of such aircraft to TUI fly.

- Advised a leading aircraft lessor in connection with the proposed refinancing in the form of a securitization of an aircraft fleet, including two Airbus A320.
- Advised a major German closed-end funds initiator on a notes program tailored for the financing of three A330-300 aircraft on lease to a major Asian airline.
- Advised a foreign financial investor on the acquisition and financing of two Airbus A320 for a well-known German airline.
- Advised a financial investor in respect to the financing and acquisition of one Boeing 737-8K5 aircraft from an airline and on lease to an airline in the UK.

Acting for Financiers / Lenders in Respect of Aviation Deals

- Advised TCC as junior lender with respect to a portfolio purchase and financing transaction between AerCap (as seller and continuing servicer) and subsidiaries of DVB and KKR. The syndicate of senior lenders was lead by BNP Paribas, Paris. The portfolio comprises aircraft on lease to the following airlines: Norwegian Air International, WestJet, Air Europa, KLM, Air France, Nouvelair, Aerolineas Argentinas, Aegean, Free Bird, T'Way, Garuda Indonesia, Finnair, Air Berlin, Air Transat, Royal Jordanian, SwissAir, Brussels Airlines, Boliviana, Xiamen Airlines, P.T. Sriwijaya Air, Comair, Iberia, TAME, Air Asia, Jet2.com, VECA, Hainan Airlines, and EuroAtlantic.
- Advised Deutsche Bank AG in relation to the JOLCO finance of two Boeing 737-800 aircraft on lease to a subsidiary of Financial Products Group and subleased to TUI fly GmbH.
- Advised two US financial institutions as lenders in relation to the JOLCO financing of one Boeing 737-800 on lease to a subsidiary of a Japanese lessor and on sublease to an airline in Germany.
- Advised a leading Irish aircraft lessor and a US top 50 alternative asset manager in relation to the sale and transfer of one Airbus A320-200 on lease to a German airline.
- Advised Landesbank Hessen-Thüringen Girozentrale as a lender, arranger, and security agent and BayernLB as lender in relation to the €40 million term loan financing for Spairliners, a joint venture of Lufthansa Technik AG and Air France SA and the world's leading company for aircraft components for the Airbus A380 and Embraer E-Jet aircraft.
- Advised a bank consortium as lenders in respect of a €50 million term facility and a €2.5 million revolving facility to refinance the existing secured term and revolving facilities agreement among Frankfurter Sparkasse, Helaba, and Spairliners.
- Advised a US financial institution on the financing of two Cessna Citation 680 Sovereign business jets.
- Advised a financial institution selling two Boeing 737-800s.

JOLCO / JOL Transactions

- Advised Japanese investors in relation to the JOLCO financing of one Airbus A350-900 on lease to a legacy airline in Germany.

- Advised the owner/lessor of a Boeing 787-9 aircraft in respect of the first (and subsequent) JOLCO financing for Virgin Atlantic Airlines.
- Advised a major Japanese leasing company on multiple JOL transactions involving multiple aircraft and portfolios on lease to Air Asia, Air Canada, Air France, ANA, British Airways, Brussels Airlines, Cathay Pacific, KLM, Emirates, Qatar Airways, Cebu Pacific, EasyJet, Germanwings, Vueling, and Wizz Air.
- Advised Sumitomo Mitsui Financing and Leasing Company, Limited as lessor's/borrower's counsel with the purchase, finance, and JOLCO leasing of five Boeing 737-MAX9 aircraft with MSNs 44161, 44162, 44163, 44164, and 44165. The aircraft are on lease to Copa Airlines and the financing was provided by SMBC Europe.
- Advised a major Japanese leasing company on JOLCO transactions involving eight B737-800 on lease to Jet2; four A320neo for SAS Scandinavian Airlines, a B787-9, and the first A350-1000 for Virgin Atlantic.
- Advised Japanese investors in relation to the JOL financings for Airbus aircraft on lease to ANA, Boeing aircraft on lease to TUI fly, and Turkish Airlines.
- Advised Sumitomo Mitsui Finance and Leasing Company, Ltd. in relation to multiple JOLCO financing transactions, including unwinds to major legacy airlines worldwide.
- Advised Japanese investors on the conclusion of JOLCO financings for four Airbus A320-214s for a major German airline.
- Advised a major Japanese leasing company on unwinding JOLCO transactions involving three Airbus A318 aircraft on lease to Air France.

Acting for Airlines

- Advised an Asian cargo airline on finance leases for three Boeing 747-8F aircraft.
- Advised a German freight carrier on the financing of a portfolio of in total 13 MD-11 SF aircraft freighters.
- Advised a leading European freight airline on the replacement of two engines under a cross-border aircraft finance transaction.

Restructuring

- Advised a major Japanese leasing company on restructuring lease transactions for two Boeing 737-800 aircraft on lease to Southwest.
- Advised a major Japanese leasing company on restructuring JOL transactions involving three Embraer ERJ-190 aircraft on lease to KLM Cityhopper.
- Advised a German bank and facility and security agent on the restructuring of two Airbus A330-343 aircraft and one Airbus A340-600.

Business Jet / Private Jet Transactions

- Advised a US financial institution on the financing of two Cessna Citation 680 Sovereign business jets.

- Advised an ultra-high-net-worth individual in Eastern Europe on the purchase of a Gulfstream G550 private business jet.
- Advised Bank of America in connection with the refinancing of senior secured credit facilities for three Cessna Citation business jets.

Other

- Advised a leading company for aircraft container management services on the outsourcing and servicing agreement with a leading US airline in relation to 15,000 aircraft containers.
- Advised the leading aircraft container (ULD) management company on its standard ULD management agreements for outsourcing of the total aircraft container fleet for new customers, including a major private Indian airline.
- Advised a leading provider of special aircraft cooling containers on Master Rental Agreements for cooling container rentals to major airlines.
- Advised a leading company for aircraft container management services on the draft of a Framework Purchase Agreement for aircraft container (ULD).