

Amanda Darling

Partner

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OVERVIEW

Amanda Darling is registered in California as a Foreign Legal Consultant and is a Solicitor of the Senior Court of England and Wales. She is not currently admitted in New York.

Amanda Darling is a partner in the firm's Finance practice. For more than a decade, Amanda's practice has focused on asset and project finance (with an emphasis on aircraft, shipping, and space). She has represented a broad range of clients such as leasing companies, trading houses, airlines, shipping companies, borrowers, international banks, and financial institutions and has a wealth of experience working on cross-border transactions.

Amanda may render professional legal advice on the law of England and Wales. However, she may not render advice with respect to the law of the State of New York, State of California, any other state of the United States or the District of Columbia, United States.

Amanda is registered as a Foreign Legal Consultant in California.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Prior to joining the firm in 2015, Amanda worked in the asset finance and project finance practices of global law firms in Tokyo, Singapore, and London. She has experience drafting, negotiating, and reviewing documentation in connection with financing, security, intercreditor arrangements, shipbuilding contracts, common terms agreements, purchase agreements, aircraft component financing and leasing, charters, O&M contracts, portfolio purchases, and leasing in support of the aviation and shipping industries. She also has experience assisting lenders, lessors, lessees, owners, airlines, shipping companies, and energy providers on a range of financing, leasing, sale and purchase, and restructuring transactions.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Recognized by *Chambers USA* for Transportation: Aviation: Finance, USA - Nationwide, 2024-2026

- Recognized by *The Legal 500 United States* as a Recommended Lawyer for Aviation and Air Travel - Finance, 2023-2026
- Led the team awarded Americas Editor's Deal of the Year, *Airline Economics* Aviation 100, 2024
- Led the team awarded Middle East & Africa Supported Finance Deal of the Year, *Airline Economics* Aviation 100, 2023
- Led the team awarded Asia-Pacific Editor's Deal of the Year, *Airline Economics* Aviation 100, 2023
- Ranked Top Three Law Firm Globally for Aviation Finance by *Airfinance Journal's Guide to Aviation Lawyers,* 2020-2022
- Led the team awarded Editor's Tax Lease Deal of the Year Asia, *Airfinance Journal,* 2022
- Led the team awarded Asia-Pacific Overall Deal of the Year, *Airline Economics* Aviation 100, 2022
- Advised on Asia-Pacific Debt Deal of the Year, *Airline Economics* Aviation 100, 2022
- Recognized by Women in Business Law, *Expert Guides,* 2022
- Advised on Bank Loan Deal of the Year, *Airfinance Journal,* 2021
- Advised on Aviation 100 Global Leaders Awards 'Overall Deal of the Year (& Americas M&A Deal of the Year)', 2020
- Led the team awarded North America Deal of the Year, *Airfinance Journal,* 2019
- Advised on Bank Loan Deal of the Year, *Airfinance Journal,* 2019
- Ranked Top Law Firm by *Airfinance Journal* in JOLs, JOLCOs, and Structured Leases, 2017-2022
- Recognized by *The Legal 500 Asia-Pacific* as a JOLCO specialist in Japan
- Listed as a “Rising Star” by *Airfinance Journal,* 2017

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- England and Wales Law Society
- Law Institute of Victoria
- Queensland Law Society

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Chair, “Day 1,” Airline Economics Growth Frontiers Global - Dublin, 13 January 2025
- Presenter, “US JOLs and JOLCOs: An Overview of Structures and Participants,” CLE Training for Bank of Utah and Boeing Capital, 3 October 2024

- Moderator, “JOLCO Panel,” Airline Economics Growth Frontiers Tokyo, 10 April 2024
- Panelist, “Aviation Loans & Transportation Finance,” Opal Group ABS Summit, 6 December 2023

EDUCATION

- Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice, College of Law, Sydney, 2009
- LL.B., Queensland University of Technology, 2008
- B.S., Deakin University, 2003
- LL.M., Deakin University, 2022

ADMISSIONS

- Not Admitted in New York
- Registered as a Foreign Legal Consultant in California
- Solicitor and Barrister of the Supreme Court of New South Wales
- Solicitor and Barrister of the Supreme Court of South Australia
- Solicitor of the Senior Courts of England and Wales

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- 16 February 2021, An Overview of Aviation Industry Stimulus in the Americas
- August 2018, Cleared for Landing

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- “SPACs in Space” *SatMagazine, by SatNews*, April 2021
- “Drone Operations Near U.S. Airports and Commercial Aircraft,” *New York City Bar - Committee on Aeronautics Newsletter* Volume 2, No. 4, Spring 2018

NEWS & EVENTS

- 4 June 2026, K&L Gates Receives Nearly 235 Firm, Individual Rankings in 2026 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 11 June 2025, Airfinance Global Recognizes K&L Gates as a Top Law Firm in the 2025 Legal Survey
- 5 June 2025, K&L Gates Receives More Than 240 Firm, Individual Rankings in 2025 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 16 September 2024, Airfinance Global Recognizes K&L Gates as a Top Law Firm in the 2024 Legal Survey

- 6 June 2024, K&L Gates Receives More Than 200 Firm, Individual Rankings in 2024 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 19 July 2022, K&L Gates Assists JP Lease Products & Services on JOLCO Financing of Three Aircraft
- 1 July 2020, K&L Gates Aviation Finance Practice Recognized with Multiple Deal of the Year Honors During *Airfinance Journal* Awards
- 2 March 2018, K&L Gates Names 34 New Partners Across Global Platform

OTHER MEDIA MENTIONS

- Quoted, “Legal Survey 2025: Products,” *AirFinance Journal*, 6 March 2025
- Quoted, “Legal Survey 2024: Regions,” *AirFinance Journal*, 9 May 2024
- Quoted, “Legal Survey 2022: Products,” *AirFinance Journal*, 8 February 2023

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Aviation Finance
- Corporate and Acquisition Finance

INDUSTRIES

- Aerospace and Defense
- Aviation
- Energy
- Manufacturing
- Transportation and Logistics
- Transportation Finance
- Transportation Infrastructure

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

Representation of Lenders

- Represented a New York branch of a Japanese financial institution as lender's counsel in connection with the non-payment insurance backed financing of three (3) Boeing 737 MAX 8-200 aircraft to a US aircraft carrier, with an aviation-focused managing general agent acting as the insurer agent, and a federally insured community bank taking on the role of facility agent and security trustee. This transaction was awarded Airline Economics Aviation 100 “Americas Supported Finance Deal of the Year" in October 2025.

- Represented a New York branch of a Japanese financial institution as the sole lender in the JOLCO financing of one (1) 737-MAX8 on lease to an airline headquartered in Central America. This was the first JOLCO with this airline where our client acted as the sole lender and mandated lead arranger, previously being part of syndicate on previous transactions.
- Assisted a financial services company as lender's counsel with the secured financing of six aircraft to a major US airline as borrower.
- Represented a New York branch of a Japanese financial institution as the lenders in the financing of six (6) aircraft to an aircraft leasing corporation and its wholly owned subsidiaries. The transaction provided for additional term loan commitments by way of an accordion option in the principal amount of US$500 million and involved a grant of security interest by the borrower in its wholly owned subsidiary as well as in all of the equity in the aircraft owning entities. This transaction was awarded Airline Economics Aviation 100 "Americas Editor's Overall Deal of the Year" in 2024.
- Assisted a Japanese bank as sole lender on the purchase, finance, and JOLCO leasing of one (1) Boeing 777F aircraft with MSN 67995. The aircraft was on lease to a freighter-centric leasing company and sub-leased to a major US cargo airline, passenger charter airline, and aircraft lessor. The transaction was supported by an insurance-backed guarantee provided by a global insurer.
- Representing a lease financing company as lender's counsel with the beneficial interest sale and financing of two (2) Airbus A320-200 aircraft with MSN 6865 and MSN 7163. The aircraft are on lease to a narrow-body ACMI and charter operator.
- Assisted a commercial bank as lender's counsel with the ACG Guaranteed JOLCO financing of five (5) Airbus A321-251NX aircraft with MSNs 11100, 11104, 11281, 11468, and 11548 on lease to a Turkish low-cost carrier. The first two aircraft in this transaction were awarded Airline Economics' "Middle East & Africa Aviation 100 Supported Finance Deal of the Year" in 2023.
- Representing the US subsidiary of a large Japanese Company as senior and mezzanine lender in relation to loan facilities and related security for Boeing 777 components on lease to LATAM Airlines. The case ultimately went to litigation in New York and the outcome was determined in our client's favor.
- Assisted a New York branch of a Japanese financial institution as lender's counsel with the financing of two (2) Airbus A320-271N aircraft with MSN 8764 and MSN 8872. Our client was joined by Shinsei Bank, Limited, The Iyo Bank, Limited and The Tokyo Star Bank, Limited as additional lenders. The aircraft are owned and operated by Hawaiian Airlines. This deal was awarded "North America Deal of the Year" by *Airfinance Journal* in 2019.
- Assisted JA Mitsui Leasing, Ltd. as lenders' New York counsel with the financing of four (4) Airbus A330-200 aircraft with MSN 1217, MSN 1259, MSN 1295 and MSN 1302. Financing was provided by JA Mitsui Leasing, Ltd., Norinchukin Bank, Nissay Leasing Company, Limited and The Hyakugo Bank, Ltd. The aircraft are owned and operated by Hawaiian Airlines. This deal was awarded "North America Deal of the Year" by *Airfinance Journal* in 2019.
- Advised three financial institutions on the financing aspects around the acquisition of PK AirFinance from GE. Involving the financing of a complex aviation loan portfolio of more than US$3.6 billion of financing

receivables, the deal was one of the largest acquisitions in the aviation sector in the recent past. This matter was recognized as the "Bank Loan Deal of the Year" in 2019 by *Airfinance Journal*, the “Aviation 100 Overall Deal of the Year” and “Americas M&A Deal of the Year” by Aviation 100 Global Leaders Award in 2020 .

- Advised Tokyo Century Corporation ("TCC") and their US subsidiaries on multiple financing structures relating to Boeing 787 Dreamliner spare part components on lease to a prominent and established Airline Group from GAT and being used by LOT Airlines, Air New Zealand, Virgin Atlantic, Kenyan Airways, Xiamen Airlines, Vietnam Airlines, Thai Airways, and Austral Air. The transaction involves a Sale and Leaseback Agreement between GAT (UK), GAT, and the airline group. This is believed to be the first spare part financing and leasing transaction involving a global manufacturer. We were later engaged and assisted Tokyo Century Corporation and TC Skyward Aviation US, Inc. as lenders’ counsel in the senior loan extension and mezzanine loan transfer, and assisted TC Skyward Aviation US, Inc. as mezzanine lender's counsel in the repayment, security release, transfer, and refinancing regarding the Boeing 787 Dreamliner components.
- Represented TCC as senior lender to a US-based borrower in connection with Boeing 777 components on lease to LATAM. The transaction was the first component financing in South America and is backed by a letter of credit issued by the New York branch of a major German bank.
- Represented 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 were led 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.
- Represented TCC as junior lender with respect to a portfolio purchase and financing transaction between AerCap (as seller and continuing servicer) and subsidiaries of Magnetar. The syndicate of senior lenders were led by BNP Paribas, Paris. The portfolio comprises aircraft on lease to the following airlines: Air France, Etihad, Air Seychelles, Air Berlin, and Emirates.

Representation of Lessors

- Advised a Japanese Investor in relation to a portfolio acquisition finance and lease of eleven (11) aircraft from various sellers the portfolio consists of one (1) Airbus A320-200 aircraft on lease to a British multinational low-cost airline group, one (1) Airbus A321-200 aircraft on lease to a Canadian airline, one (1) Airbus A320-Neo aircraft, one (1) Boeing 737 Max 8 on lease to a major US airline, four (4) Boeing 737-800 aircraft on lease to three different airlines, one (1) Airbus A321-271NX aircraft on lease to a European ultra-low-cost airline one (1) Boeing 737-900ER aircraft on lease to a major US airline, and one (1) Airbus A321-231 aircraft on lease to a Spanish airline.
- Advised JP Lease Products & Services Co., Ltd. as beneficial seller’s/purchaser's counsel in the sale and purchase of the beneficial interest and JOLCO finance and lease of three (3) Airbus A321-271NX with MSNs 11032, 11086 and 11642. The aircraft are on lease to Frontier Airlines, Inc.

- Represented JP Lease Products & Services Co., Ltd. ("JP Lease") on three (3) Japanese Operating Lease with Call Option (JOLCO) financing of three (3) Airbus A320 aircraft with ICBC Financial Leasing as Intermediate Lessee. Two of the aircraft are on lease to Frontier Airlines and the third to Spirit Airlines. Société Générale were the Structuring Agent and were joined by HSBC, Tokyo Branch as a lender. This transaction was awarded *Airfinance Journal* "Editor's Tax Lease Deal of the Year Asia", as well as Airline Economics Aviation 100 "Asia-Pacific Overall Deal of the Year" at an awards ceremony in late 2022.
- Represented the borrowers (a Japanese trust company for the US Registered aircraft and a Japanese SPC for the non-US Registered aircraft) with financing for multiple aircraft utilizing a US-Japan joint-venture warehousing facility. Various aircraft are on lease too Wizz and Frontier Airlines – the portfolio includes both new deliveries and operating aircraft with future aircraft to be added to the portfolio in late 2023. This transaction was awarded Airline Economics Aviation 100 "Asia-Pacific Debt Deal of the Year" in 2022.
- Represented a Japanese leasing company in relation to the JOLCO financing of six (6) Boeing 737-MAX aircraft on sub-lease to COPA. The loans were provided by the New York branch of a Japanese financial institution. The first four (4) aircraft were financed by way of commercial loans. The remaining two (2) aircraft were guaranteed by AFIC.
- Assisted a Japanese leasing company as lessor's/borrower's counsel on the JOLCO finance and leasing of various Airbus aircraft with MSNs 563, 623, 652, 12133, 12141, 12151, 12158, 12535, 12483, and 12735 on lease to a British airline. The financing was provided by a Japanese multinational financial services institution. The fleet also includes an equity only NK JOLCO.
- Assisted a Japanese leasing company as lessor's/borrower's counsel on the JOLCO finance and leasing of various Airbus aircraft with MSNs 8048, 8136, 8792, 8956, 8936, 8979, 9462, 10976, 11166, 11240, 12363, and 12542. The financing was provided by three financial institutions. The latest two aircraft were guaranteed by a Balthazar Policy (Insurance consortium). The aircraft are all on lease to a Turkish airline.
- Represented TCC with its acquisition of 20% US-based aircraft leasing company Aviation Capital Group ("ACG"). Prior to the 20% acquisition by TCC, 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.
- Represented TCC in their 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.

Representation of Airlines

- Represented a large regional airline in relation to the sale of six (6) Embraer E175 aircraft to a major US carrier. The outstanding loans were guaranteed by an insurance consortium; four of the loans were assigned to and assumed by the major US carrier at closing.
- Advised a large Regional Airline on the capacity purchase agreement of thirty-seven (37) new delivery Embraer aircraft with a major US carrier.

- Represented a large regional airline with the negotiation of a General Terms Agreement with a major US carrier in relation to thirty-four (34) Embraer E170 aircraft to be leased from our client to the major US Carrier and then onward sub-leased to a wholly owned regional airline.
- Assisted an American regional airline as lessee's counsel with the refinance of three (3) Embraer ERJ170-200LR aircraft with MSN 17000168, MSN 17000172, and MSN 17000173. The aircraft are on lease to an American regional airline headquartered in Indianapolis, Indiana.
- Assisted an American airline holding corporation based as lessee's counsel with the sale and lease amendment of five (5) Embraer ERJ 170-100SU with MSNs 17000044, 17000045, 17000034, 17000026, and 17000039 and one (1) Embraer ERJ 170-100SE with MSN 17000084. GA Telesis, LLC sold the aircraft to TrueNoord Monroe B.V., TrueNoord financed all acquisitions through Erste Group Bank AG, London Branch.
- Assisted an Australian critical care aeromedical retrieval service and charity as purchaser's/airline's counsel in the sale, purchase, financing, and title transfer of one (1) Israel Industries Gulfstream G150 with MSN 235 through a US owner trustee. The transaction involved FAA deregistration, export from the United States, registration with the Australian CASA, and nuances in relation to Texas sales tax. The aircraft was modified from a business jet to an air ambulance. Financing was provided by Westpac Banking Corporation.