

Robert E. Melson, Jr.

Practice Area Leader - Finance

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OVERVIEW

Robert Melson is a partner and practice area leader for the firm's Finance practice. He works extensively with clients doing business across Asia. Robert's practice focuses on corporate and international finance, especially in the areas of aircraft and equipment leasing, equipment finance, project finance, mergers and acquisitions, real estate finance, sovereign lending, and high tech ventures.

Robert is recognized as a leading lawyer for asset finance in *Chambers Asia-Pacific* and has been since 2008. He has also been recognized in *Chambers Asia-Pacific* banking and finance since 2009 and is currently recognized in band 1 for Japan, Banking & Finance: International Asset Finance in addition to being recognized for Aviation Finance since 2015. According to *Chambers Asia-Pacific*, Robert is described by one peer as “very much a leading player for aviation finance.” He has over two decades of experience in asset finance, frequently acting for major clients on cross-border deals. *Chambers Asia-Pacific* states that he “is appreciated for his 'wealth of experience' in cross border asset finance deals and 'meticulous attention to detail' in complicated cases.” He has also been listed as a leading aviation lawyer in *Expert Guides - Aviation* since 2013 and received an "Individual All-Star” award in the Transportation sector at *The Asian Lawyer All-Star Awards 2014*.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Recognized by *Chambers Global*
  - Banking & Finance: International Firms: Asset Finance in Japan, 2013-2026
  - Aviation: Finance in Asia-Pacific Region, 2015-2026
- Recognized by *The Legal 500 United States* as a Recommended Lawyer for Aviation and Air Travel - Finance, 2026
- Recognized by *Chambers Asia-Pacific*
  - Banking & Finance: International Asset Finance in Japan, 2014-2026
  - Aviation: Finance in Asia-Pacific Region, 2015-2026

- Recognized by *The Legal 500 Asia Pacific* as Leading Partner for Banking and Finance: International Firms and Joint Ventures in Japan, 2024-2026

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- America Japan Society, Member of the Council; Sports Committee Chairman
- American Chamber of Commerce in Japan, Chair of Special Events Committee
- New York State Bar Association
- American Bar Association

EDUCATION

- J.D., Harvard Law School, 1997 *(cum laude)*
- B.A., Yale University, 1994 *(magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa)*

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of New York
- Japan (Dai-ni Tokyo Bar Association (Gaikokuho-Jimu-Bengoshi - registered foreign lawyer))

LANGUAGES

- English
- Japanese

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- 18 January 2019, Cleared to Land: Aviation Newsletter
- August 2018, Cleared for Landing

NEWS & EVENTS

- 27 October 2026, K&L Gates Recognized Among Leading Law Firms in *Ishka Airfinance* 2026 Legal Survey
- 29 June 2026, K&L Gates Adds Cross-Border Aviation Finance Partner in London
- 19 March 2026, K&L Gates Advises Vietnam Airlines on Landmark US$8 Billion Boeing Aircraft Purchase
- 12 February 2026, *Chambers Global* 2026 Guide Ranks K&L Gates Lawyers, Practices

- 14 January 2026, K&L Gates Recognised in *The Legal 500 Asia Pacific* 2026
- 11 December 2025, *Chambers Asia-Pacific* 2026 Guide Recognises K&L Gates
- 8 December 2025, K&L Gates Recognized at Asia Business Law Journal's Japan Law Firm Awards 2025
- 11 June 2025, Airfinance Global Recognizes K&L Gates as a Top Law Firm in the 2025 Legal Survey
- 13 February 2025, *Chambers Global* 2025 Guide Ranks K&L Gates Lawyers, Practices
- 15 January 2025, The Legal 500 Recognises K&L Gates In 2025 Asia Pacific Edition
- 16 September 2024, Airfinance Global Recognizes K&L Gates as a Top Law Firm in the 2024 Legal Survey
- 15 February 2024, *Chambers Global* 2024 Guide Ranks K&L Gates Lawyers, Practices
- 17 January 2024, The Legal 500 Recognises K&L Gates in 2024 Asia Pacific Edition
- 14 December 2023, Chambers Asia-Pacific 2024 Guide Recognises K&L Gates
- 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
- 16 February 2023, K&L Gates Recognized in 2023 *Chambers Global* Guide
- 16 January 2023, The Legal 500 Recognizes K&L Gates in 2023 Asia Pacific Edition
- 29 July 2022, Airfinance Journal Recognizes K&L Gates as a Top Law Firm in 2022 Legal Survey
- 17 February 2022, K&L Gates Recognized in 2022 Chambers Global Guide
- 13 January 2022, Legal 500 Recognizes K&L Gates in 2022 Asia Pacific Guide
- 16 December 2021, Chambers Asia-Pacific 2022 Guide Recognises K&L Gates
- 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
- 24 February 2021, K&L Gates Recognized in 2021 Chambers Global Guide
- 16 December 2020, K&L Gates Recognized in Chambers 2021 Asia Pacific and FinTech Guides
- 27 October 2020, K&L Gates Takes Home Aviation Firm of the Year Award at ALB SE Asia Law Awards 2020
- 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
- 18 February 2019, K&L Gates Receives Multiple Recognitions at *Global Transport Finance* Awards

- 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
- 26 May 2016, K&L Gates, Lawyers Earn Honors in Chambers Global, Regional Guides
- 31 July 2015, K&L Gates Again Advises Republic of Indonesia on Billion Dollar Eurobond Issuance
- 6 May 2015, K&L Gates, Lawyers Recognized as Leaders in Chambers Global Guides

OTHER MEDIA MENTIONS

- Quoted, “Legal Survey 2025: Regions,” *AirFinance Journal*, 15 May 2025

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Aviation Finance
- Corporate and Acquisition Finance
- Debt Capital Markets
- Fintech Lending
- International Trade, Investment Controls, and National Security
- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Real Estate Finance
- Restructuring and Insolvency

INDUSTRIES

- Aviation
- Energy
- Oil and Gas
- Transportation and Logistics
- Transportation Finance