

William O'Connor

Partner



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San Diego

Commercial Litigation
Product Compliance and Product Litigation
Insurance
Trials
Aviation – Manned and Unmanned
Spacotech and Satellite
CooleyREG

Bill is a trial lawyer with significant experience in business litigation, insurance coverage disputes, high-stakes aviation cases and product liability litigation.

Commercial litigation and insurance experience

Bill's 20 years of litigation experience includes the trial and arbitration of commercial disputes related to real estate, investments, partnerships and joint ventures, license agreements, supply contracts, and insurance and reinsurance. His six-month secondment to the general counsel team of MS Amlin, the largest Lloyd's insurer in the London market, has given him particular insight into the international insurance industry, and Bill routinely advises clients on coverage and risk management issues.

Aviation experience

As an experienced pilot, Bill understands the technical aspects involved in aviation-related litigation. He has been involved in several high-profile aviation accident cases, including the Alaska Airlines Flight 261, Gol Airlines Flight 1907 and Air France Flight 447 multidistrict litigations. Bill also represents aircraft and helicopter manufacturers in product liability litigation filed in the US and abroad. He maintains a significant airports disputes practice, which involves representing airport proprietors and fixed-base operators in controversial matters. For example, Bill led the representation of the city of Santa Monica, California, in litigation against the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), resulting in a landmark settlement to close the Santa Monica Airport. Bill also represents aviation clients in commercial and regulatory matters, FAA enforcement proceedings, FAA Part 16 cases, and US Department of Transportation investigations. He is also involved in cutting-edge legal matters involving unmanned aircraft. His success in the aviation field has been recognized by Chambers USA and The Legal 500.

Product liability experience

Bill regularly counsels clients on a range of product issues, including regulatory compliance, risk assessment and mitigation, warning and labeling, recalls, and crisis management. Bill's product advisement and litigation experience cover a range of product segments, including consumer products, medical devices, automotive products, robotics and autonomous systems, and industrial equipment.

Education

Georgetown University Law Center
JD, 2001

University of California, San Diego
BA, 1998

Admissions & Credentials

California

Rankings & Accolades

Chambers USA: Transportation: Aviation: Litigation – Nationwide (2020 – 2025)

The Legal 500 US: Aviation and Air Travel: Litigation and Regulation (2023 – 2025)

Best Lawyers in America: Product Liability Litigation

Super Lawyers: Top-Rated Products Liability Attorney

Daily Journal: Top 20 Under 40

Memberships & Affiliations

Association of Business Trial Lawyers – San Diego, board of governors

The Honorable J. Clifford Wallace American Inn of Court, barrister