



# Air Accident Claims

## Professional Aviation and Legal Expertise

Jim has over 26 years of professional experience in aviation and litigation. During his flying career he flew piston, single turbo-prop, twin turbo-prop, fast jet and four engine Boeing aircraft on operations around the world. He also qualified as a Squadron Flight Safety Officer. When he changed career to law he decided to use his pilot expertise in the field of aviation law to provide an exceptional service to his clients.

Jim is rated as a leading individual in the Legal 500 and Chambers independent legal directories and has extensive experience in handling international aviation claims involving all types of aircraft, including airliners, business jets, helicopters, light aircraft and military aircraft. The victims represented include passengers, pilots, cabin crew, airline staff, ground victims and service personnel.

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[ashfords.co.uk/sector/aviation](http://ashfords.co.uk/sector/aviation)

Jim has particular expertise in identifying causes of action that may not be apparent to a practitioner who is not an aviation professional. This has enabled him to successfully bring cases in the US against component manufacturers (click here to read an example of this in the [Schweizer helicopter](#) case) and US aviation services corporations (click here to read an example of this in the [Pamir case](#)) and identify product liability causes of action (click here to read an example of this in the [Pioneer 400](#) case) that can transform the value of the case and hold the correct parties to account for the tragedy.

As the victims and families of air accidents often have to wait over a year and sometimes several years for the final accident report, credible advice at an early stage on the complex issues surrounding the air accident and the law is crucial. The combined aviation and legal capabilities of the team means that they can provide victims with in-depth professional analysis and advice on the key issues relevant to air accidents. This in-house expert advice is unrivalled and will cover many matters including the aircraft, its systems, performance/ aerodynamics, pilot training, pilot handling techniques, standard operating procedures, emergency procedures, weather conditions, the accident, the accident investigation, applicable laws and the litigation strategy/ options. This enables the aviation team to provide class leading advice and representation to victims and families, who want to know why the accident happened, what can be done to improve flight safety and the best legal cause(s) of action to hold those responsible to account for the full extent of their losses.

In addition to the air accident investigation and the legal action in the civil courts, a number of jurisdictions (including England and Wales) require a formal inquest to determine how the death(s) occurred. The inquest is an important process for the families as it gives them the opportunity to ask questions of those persons with closest connections to the accident and investigation. As a barrister, Jim is also a specialist in conducting the advocacy on behalf of families at inquests. His expert questioning of witnesses and aviation professionals can provide important evidence that can assist with the civil legal action (click here to read an example of this in the [Schweizer helicopter](#) case), (click here to read an example of this in the [Pioneer 400](#) case), (click here to read an example of this in the [PA 38](#) case) and can lead to rule changes to enhance the safety of passengers (click here to read an example of this in the [Sita Air case](#)).

## ABOUT ASHFORDS

Ashfords LLP is a national provider of legal and professional services. Our focus is on getting our clients the results they want and delivering the service they deserve and expect.

With unique air accident claims and aviation expertise, our Aviation Team is dedicated to representing injured victims and families who have lost loved ones as a result of aviation accidents around the world.



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Jim specialises in representing the victims of international air accidents. He was a professionally qualified Royal Air Force pilot prior to becoming an aviation lawyer, and has over 26 years' experience in aviation and litigation.