



CLIFFORD® LAW OFFICES

**Commercial Aviation Crash Cases
Handled by the Clifford Aviation Team**



Departures



Arribades
Arrivals
Llegadas

1

2

3

The Aviation Attorneys at Clifford Law Offices — They teach others how it's done.

Articles:

- Aviation Law, Co-Author Michael S. Krzak Chapter in Thompson Reuters Business and Commercial Litigation in Federal Court book, 4th edit., 2016.
- Action Needed to Protect Flights from War Zones, San Francisco Chronicle, July 21, 2014.
- Time to Act on Aviation Safety Technologies, Chicago Daily Law Bulletin, Law Day, 2014.
- 2 Essential Tools Would Prevent Repeat of Malaysian Mystery, San Francisco Chronicle, March 20, 2014.
- How many more crashes until the FAA acts? The San Francisco Chronicle, July 12, 2013.
- How Secure is Airport Security? Clifford's Notes, Chicago Lawyer, September, 2010.
- Search for Airline Safety, Clifford's Notes, Chicago Lawyer, July, 2009.
- Soliciting Crash Victims, Clifford's Notes, Chicago Lawyer, March, 2009.
- Safety in the Air, Clifford's Notes, Chicago Lawyer, December, 2008.
- Not All Airline Cases Arise Under Federal Law, Clifford's Notes, Chicago Lawyer, July, 2007.
- Using FOIA to Investigate the TWA 800 Crash, Clifford's Notes, Chicago Lawyer, December, 2006.
- Airline Relief Legislation Needs Scrutiny, Clifford's Notes, Chicago Lawyer, November, 2001.
- Issues to Examine in Cases Against Common Carriers, Product Liability Law and Strategy, Leader Publications, New York, June, 1999.
- Power of the People: The Jury in Flight 4184, Chicago Lawyer, May, 1998.
- When a Plane Goes Down, The Washington Post, December 9, 1997.
- Where Should Plane Crash Cases Land? Clifford's Notes, Chicago Lawyer, November, 1996.
- Battling for Big Bucks, Litigation Magazine, American Bar Association, Journal of the Section of Litigation, Fall, 1996.



Robert A. Clifford
Founder,
Senior Partner

- ValuJet Crash Shows Flawed System, Voice of the People, Chicago Tribune, June 11, 1996.
- Like Travel, Travel Litigation is Broadening, Clifford's Notes, Chicago Lawyer, August, 1994.
- Aviation Industry Putting its Head in Clouds, Clifford's Notes, Chicago Lawyer, June, 1994.

Speeches

- How Did We Get Here? The Development of International and Domestic Aviation Law and Regulation, 2014 International Air & Transportation Safety Bar Association Conference, November 13, 2014.
- Air Crash Litigation: Key Issues in the Years Ahead, American Bar Association Forum on Air & Space Law Meeting, Seattle, Washington, October 26-27, 2010.
- Compensation Funds: Are They Enough? Chicago, Illinois, American Bar Association CLE teleconference, September 19, 2007.
- Foreign Plaintiffs - Issues and Problems, Aviation Issues in the Real Millennium, American Bar Association Tort and Insurance Practice, Washington, D.C., October 18, 2001.
- The Criminalization of Aviation Accidents, ABA Annual Seminar, New York, June 7, 2001.
- Aviation on Trial - In the Trenches with Aviation Accident Litigation, American Bar Association, Section of Litigation, New York, May 13, 1999.
- Avcon - 99, Debate - Plaintiff's Perspective After an Airline Crash, London, U.K., April 27, 1999.
- Aviation Litigation: Trial Evidence Issues After ValuJet & TWA 800, American Bar Association, Washington, D.C., April, 1997.
- The Plaintiff's Perspective on Exclusive Federal Jurisdiction, Aviation Liability Into the 21st Century, American Bar Association, Washington, D.C., October, 1996.
- Airplane Design, Product Liability Litigation, Illinois Trial Lawyers Association, Jan. 13, 1996.

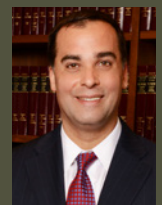


Kevin P. Durkin, Partner
Speaker/Media Appearances:

- Expert: Pilots of Doomed Plane May Have Flown Too Low to Get Glimpse of Runway, Sun-Sentinel, Florida, Jan. 29, 2017.
- Illinois Trial Lawyers Association, The Value of Focus Groups, June, 2015.
- International Business Times, Germanwings: How Much Will the Families of Flight 9525 Receive in Crash Settlements? March 30, 2015.
- Wall Street Journal, Liability for Germanwings Crash May Still Rest with Airline, Insurer; Copilot's secrecy wouldn't necessarily exonerate Lufthansa, lawyers say, by Robert Wall, March 30, 2015.
- Illinois Trial Lawyers Association, The Value of Focus Groups, March 28, 2015.
- Bloomberg News, Germanwings Crash Cause Means Recoveries Uncapped, by Stephanie Bodoni, March 27, 2015.
- Ethics of Client Communications, Illinois Trial Lawyers Association, May 2, 2014.
- Improper Statements and Conduct in Opening and Closing Arguments, ABA, April 25, 2013.
- Disaster in the Alps? Fight Over Forum, American Bar Association, June 3, 2010.
- Objections, American Bar Association, July 30, 2009.
- Law Bulletin Publishing Company, Litigation Skills III Conference, April 23, 2009.
- Transportation Torts, Planes, Illinois Trial Lawyers Association (ITLA), February 16, 2009.
- American Bar Association, Aviation and Space Law Committee, Vice Chair, 2005 - 2009.
- Fault Allocation Under Sect. 2-1117/ Excluding Settling Defendants From Verdict Form, Illinois Trial Lawyers Association, October, 2008.
- American Bar Association, Aviation Litigation Committee, Co-Chair, 2000 - 2004.
- Battling for Big Bucks, Litigation Magazine, ABA, Journal of the Section of Litigation, Fall, 1996.

Michael S. Krzak, Partner
Articles/Speeches:

- Aviation Law, Co-Author Robert Clifford Chapter in Thompson Reuters Business and Commercial Litigation in Federal Court book, 4th edit., 2016.
- Who Controls You? Handling ATC Issues and Aviation Mishaps in Air Crash Cases, American Bar Association Panel, June 1, 2016.
- Discoverability of Airline Voluntary Safety Programs in Civil Litigation, American Bar Association Mass Torts, February 5, 2016.
- Show It, Don't Tell It - 21st Century Animation in Air Crash Litigation, American Bar Association Mass Torts, Nov. 10, 2015.
- Major Issues in Regional Air Crash Cases, Comair Flight 5191 and Colgan Flight 3407, American Bar Association Aviation Litigation, June, 2015.
- Major Issues in Major Cases: Recent Aviation Disaster Cases - Lexington to Malaysia, International Air & Transportation Safety Bar Association (IATSBA) Conference, November 14, 2014.
- Time to Act on Aviation Safety Technologies, Chicago Daily Law Bulletin, Law Day issue, 2014.
- Focusing Your Case Through Jury Research, Mock Trials & Other Tools, ABA, October 24, 2014.
- Where is Malaysia Airlines Flight 370?: How Deployable Recorders and Asset Trackers Can Prevent Another Ghost Flight, American Association of Justice Section Newsletter, Fall, 2014.
- Negotiating a Settlement of an Aviation Accident Case, ABA Tort & Insurance Practice, Nov. 1, 2013.
- Washington Post, Live Q&A-Reagan National Airport Air Traffic Controller Silence, March 24, 2011.
- Utilizing Technology in Transportation Tort Cases, ITLA Update & Review, October 12, 2009.
- Electronic Data Discovery — What Can I Expect to Happen in My Case? ABA Tort & Insurance Practice Section, Aviation and Space Law Litigation National Program, Oct. 16, 2008.





CLIFFORD® LAW OFFICES

More than 100 years of combined aviation litigation experience.



1979 American Airlines Flight 191

Just seconds after American Airlines Flight 191 took off from O'Hare Airport, the McDonnell Douglas DC-10 crashed, killing all 258 passengers on board and 13 crew members along with two people on the ground. Robert Clifford worked on the complex litigation involving numerous defendants in what would be the deadliest crash in our country's history.

1989 United Airlines Flight 232

A severely injured 70-year-old woman was awarded \$28.3 million. The plane cartwheeled down the runway during landing and burst into flames. A Chicago area man who lost his wife and daughter was awarded \$15 million. Clifford Law Offices was key in proving that GE, the manufacturer of the engine, failed to detect a crack in a disk.

1991 American Airlines Flight 585

Twenty passengers and five crew members were en route from Denver to Colorado Springs when a Boeing 737 crashed on its final approach to Runway 35. This was the first case to identify rudder problems in 737 aircraft that led to the FAA ordering three design modifications. Clifford Law Offices represented five families, including four crew members, and reached a settlement with Boeing and American Airlines.

1994 American Eagle Flight 3379

Flight 3379 crashed in Morrisville, North Carolina, after one engine failed and the plane's pilot did not follow proper procedures.

1994 American Eagle Flight 4184

An inattentive flight crew and a poorly designed de-icing boot system caused a crash during an ice storm. Everyone on board perished. Clifford Law Offices represented 16 passengers' families and helped to secure \$110 million for 28 families whose damages cases were consolidated.

1994 USAir Flight 427

All 132 passengers on Flight 427 were killed during landing due to a rudder malfunction. The FAA enacted three rudder direction modifications to the aircraft to prevent future air catastrophes. Clifford Law Offices obtained \$54 million for the families it represented.



1995 Tarom Airlines Flight 371

All 60 passengers on flight 371 were killed when the pilot lost control over Romania due to health problems. The co-pilot attempted to turn on the autopilot, but necessary parameters were not met. Clifford Law Offices settled the case for \$4.7 million for a business consultant who was a passenger aboard this tragic flight.

1996 TWA Flight 800

Flight 800 crashed off the coast of New York due to an explosion in the center wing fuel tank. Clifford Law Offices represented a victim's family and collected damages in a case filed in New York federal district court. The Boeing 737-100 had taken off from John F. Kennedy Airport en route to Paris.

1979

1989

1991

1994

1995

1996



**1998
SwissAir
Flight 111**

Electrical arcing in wiring of the in-flight entertainment system started an insulation blanket fire that spread to the cockpit. Clifford Law Offices represented the family of a passenger killed in the crash. The McDonnell Douglas MD-11 aircraft was en route from New York to Geneva, Switzerland, when it crashed off a small fishing and tourist community in Nova Scotia.

1998

**1999
American Airlines
Flight 1420**

The flight crew was unable to control Flight 1420 during inclement weather, causing the aircraft to overshoot the runway, crash into a chain-link fence and strike an anchored stanchion in Little Rock, Arkansas. The captain and 10 passengers were killed; the first officer, four flight attendants and 105 passengers were injured. Clifford Law Offices settled the case of two brothers who survived.

**1999
EgyptAir
Flight 990**

217 passengers were killed when Flight 990 crashed in the Atlantic Ocean near Nantucket, Massachusetts, after taking off from Los Angeles International Airport en route to Cairo, Egypt. The National Transportation Safety Board determined the crash was caused by the intentional act of the first officer. Among those killed was an 80-year-old woman represented by Clifford Law Offices. She left behind a legally blind husband who relied on his wife for help and assistance with his day-to-day living.

1999

**2000
Alaska Air
Flight 261**



Clifford Law obtained more than \$40 million in settlements for seven families after Flight 261 crashed in the Pacific Ocean en route from Puerta Vallarta, Mexico,

to Seattle, Washington. Nearly 100 depositions were taken to establish that a defective jackscrew system and improper maintenance caused the crash that killed all 88 aboard including 83 passengers, two pilots and three crew members.

**2000
Singapore Air
Flight 006**

A Singapore Airlines passenger flight was headed to Los Angeles from Taiwan's international airport. During heavy rain, the Boeing 747 entered the wrong runway, rolled and collided into construction equipment, bursting into flames. There were 83 casualties, including four crew members.

2000

**2001
American Airlines
Flight 11 and
United Airlines
Flight 175**

Clifford Law Offices represented the property interests of companies, corporations and business owners involved in the destruction of the World Trade Center Twin Towers on September 11, 2001. These suits were complex, representing insurance companies and business interests around the world. It settled in 2012 for \$1.2 billion.

**2002
American Airlines
Flight 587**

The National Transportation Safety Board determined Flight 587 crashed due to faulty actions taken by the first officer during take-off that caused the tail of the aircraft to fall off. The flight had taken off from John F. Kennedy Airport in New York and was heading to Santo Domingo's Las Americas International Airport in the Dominican Republic. All 260 passengers as well as five people on the ground were killed when the plane crashed in a residential neighborhood in New York.

2001

**2003
Turkish Airlines
Flight 634**

Clifford Law Offices represented the wife of the only American on board Flight 634. The plane crashed in thick fog as it approached Diyarbakir Airport in Turkey.

**2005
Southwest
Airlines
Flight 1248**



Clifford Law Offices represented the family of a deceased child who was with his parents in a car. The Boeing 737 landed in a snowstorm at Chicago's Midway Airport when it skidded off the runway, crashed through a barrier wall and struck the family's vehicle, resulting in the six year old's death as well as the injury of the child's parents and his two younger brothers who also were in the back seat.

2005

2006



2006
Comair Flight 5191

Clifford Law Offices represented five families of crash victims who were killed when the pilots of Flight 5191 crashed after going down a short unlit runway early in the morning. The pilots were engaged in unnecessary chatter in violation of the “sterile cockpit” rule. Forty-seven people were killed as well as two crew members. The co-pilot survived.

2009
Continental Connection Flight 3407

All 49 passengers and one man on the ground were killed when the Bombardier Dash-8 Q400 aircraft crashed into a home en route to Buffalo, New York, from Newark, New Jersey. Clifford Law Offices represented four families who lost loved ones in this crash.

2009
Turkish Airlines Flight 1951

Nine people were killed when Flight TK1951 crashed into a muddy field in Amsterdam. The aircraft broke into three pieces on impact, scattering debris. The aircraft stalled as a result of a faulty radio altimeter and the failure of the crew to recognize the aircraft was losing speed. Clifford Law Offices represented numerous individuals injured in the crash.

2011
Caribbean Airlines Flight 523

In the early morning hours of July 30, 2011, Caribbean Airlines Flight 523, a Boeing 737, crashed on landing in Guyana. Clifford Law Offices represented five individuals who were injured on the international flight in cases filed under the Montreal Convention in federal court in the Eastern District of New York.

2013
Asiana Flight 214

Pilot mismanagement was one of the major causes of Asiana Flight 214 that crashed at San Francisco International Airport. The crash left three people dead and nearly 200 more injured. The Boeing 777 aircraft’s tail struck a seawall and was ripped off upon its approach to land, causing the plane to slide and spin down the runway before a fire erupted. The passenger flight had taken off from Incheon International Airport in Seoul, South Korea, and crashed on its final approach to the runway.

2014
Malaysia Airlines Flight 370

A Boeing 777 on its way to Beijing from Kuala Lumpur International Airport suddenly disappeared from all air traffic control radar over the South China Sea about an hour into the flight. The search for the wreckage was called off following a three-year underwater multinational investigation. In July, 2015, it is believed that several pieces of the missing jet were found on an island in the southern Indian Ocean. Clifford Law Offices represents two permanent U.S. residents who were passengers on that flight and were the parents of two minor U.S. citizen children.

2016
American Airlines Flight 383

The Boeing 767 heading to Miami erupted and became a ball of fire and smoke as it attempted to take off on O’Hare’s Runway 28R. The G.E. disk in the right engine failed. The crew aborted takeoff and an emergency evacuation of all 161 passengers and crew members was ordered, with more than 20 people being taken to Chicago area hospitals. Clifford Law Offices represents numerous passengers aboard that flight who suffered injuries in the evacuation as well as permanent mental and emotional distress from the incident.

2009

2011

2013

2014

2016



CLIFFORD® LAW OFFICES

120 NORTH LASALLE STREET 31ST FLOOR

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602

TELEPHONE 312-899-9090 FAX 312-251-1160

www.CliffordLaw.com

CLIFFORD LAW OFFICES

AVIATION LITIGATION

Clifford Law Offices has represented victims of aircraft disasters around the world. The firm has represented passengers and crew against virtually every major airline carrier, manufacturer and assembler, earning the firm a distinguished reputation for managing complex litigation arising from commercial and private air disasters.

