

Rebecca A. Lipe

EXPERIENCE

STEPTOE & JOHNSON, LLP

July 2016 – Present

ASSOCIATE: AVIATION, TRANSPORTATION, UNMANNED AIRCRAFT, GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

Washington, D.C.

- Expertly represents aviation service providers in diverse state court lawsuits with potential damages over \$25 million.
- Adjudicated 38 claims and provided sound analysis regarding contractual liability requirements following a major Department of Defense (DoD) contractor aviation incident preventing litigation and over \$2 million in damages.
- Effectively defended a lawsuit challenging a \$40 billion TRICARE contract award to Humana at the Government Accountability Office and U.S. Court of Federal Claims; counseled clients on matters relating to federal procurement statutes and regulations to include compliance, contract changes, federal procurement, and procurement integrity.
- Conducts internal audits and investigations for regulatory compliance violations and whistleblower actions; provides representation in front of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB); authors comments on Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemakings (ANPRM) and applications for exemptions from transportation regulations.
- Identified and rectified over 200 regulatory compliance errors prior to a client's purchase of an aviation parts manufacturer preventing subsequent Federal Aviation Administration ("FAA") action of suspected unapproved parts; conducts due diligence regulatory reviews prior to purchase of aviation entities for compliance with FAA regulations.
- Represents clients in connection with Department of Transportation (DOT) and FAA certificate actions, investigations, enforcement proceedings, and FAA drug and alcohol testing program compliance and enforcement.
- Assisted in the representation of a major Class I railroad in federal court litigation involving the transportation of hazardous materials; researched international funding opportunities and limitations for hyperloop developer.
- Obtained unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) Remote Pilot Certificates, Certificates of Authorization and Waivers, and completed applications for the UAS Integrated Pilot Program for commercial operators; created operations manual for Fortune 500 company integral to incorporating UAS into commercial entities.

JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

January 2010-July 2016

ATTORNEY, AVIATION AND ADMIRALTY LAW BRANCH

July 5, 2014 – July 5, 2016

Joint Base Andrews, MD

- Rated number one of sixteen junior litigation attorneys. Secured dismissals in \$60 million and \$6 million aviation lawsuits. Identified a critical defense in a \$96 million fatal aviation lawsuit.
- Analyzed regulatory concerns, litigation risks, and policy considerations for senior leadership. Reviewed 13 high-interest aviation accident investigation reports identifying over 2,500 regulatory compliance errors requiring accident investigation boards to amend reports for legal sufficiency.
- Provided regulatory guidance and policy advice to senior leadership on 40 aviation accident investigations.
- Researched novel and complex aviation, missile, and unmanned aerial system issues to develop regulatory changes.
- Handpicked to brief the Secretary of the Air Force, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, and eight senior officers on a high-profile investigation with national security implications, and advised on the proper course of action.
- Principal attorney leading 5-10 person teams on 5 fatal and non-fatal mishaps. Conducted witness interviews, and oversaw the collection, preservation, and testing of evidence. Produced a written report appropriate for public release.
- Rated as the number one of six instructors for the Air Force's accident investigation courses teaching 120 attorneys and paralegals and 118 senior officers investigation statutory and regulatory requirements.

CHIEF OF MILITARY JUSTICE, CONTRACTS, AND ETHICS

December 9, 2011 – July 4, 2014

Moody Air Force Base, GA

- Primary legal advisor on criminal law to commanders of 2 military wings with more than 6,000 personnel. Managed 6 paralegals and guided 5 attorneys in effecting 20 trials, 192 non-judicial punishments, 109 administrative discharges, and 53 administrative hearings; rated top ten percent of 580 junior officers by the base Commander.
- Represented the United States as counsel in pretrial hearings, trials, and administrative hearings for crimes involving charges of rape, child pornography, fraud, assault and battery, child abuse, theft, and drugs.
- Principal legal advisor to the Air Force Office of Special Investigations and military police. Advised law enforcement personnel in the areas of search and seizures, interrogations, pre-trial detention, and evidence assembly.
- Reviewed \$3.2 million in government contracts to include processing an override of a protest stay that averted a delay in the deployment of military members. Defended two Government Accountability Office protests. Mitigated the effects of an inadvertent release of contract bidder's pricing data on a \$1.3 million dollar. Marshalled eight chaplain contracts through award in only six weeks averting a loss of service during sequestration.
- Organized and ensured timely ethics training and financial disclosures for 70 federal filers. Leveraged ethics expertise in evaluating a \$10,000 community gift to stage an aircraft on base, and assisted the acceptance of a \$10,000 painting.

DEPUTY STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE

February 1, 2011 – July 7, 2011

Joint Base Balad, Iraq

- Deputy Staff Judge Advocate to 2,500 person Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force; responsible for supervising the work of five Judge Advocates and eight paralegals in Task Force locations throughout Iraq.
- Analyzed 62 lethal operations and time-sensitive-targeting for compliance with the Rules of Engagement and Law of War. Legal research directly impacted special operations missions in Iraq.
- Reviewed over 300 contracting requests totaling \$18.1 million, ensuring compliance with federal fiscal rules.
- Examined and adjudicated 21 interrogation requests and 16 detainee abuse allegations, preserving the rule of law and improving security gains; served as advisor to Iraqi judges in the prosecution of terrorists at the Iraqi Criminal Court.

CHIEF OF ADVERSE ACTIONS AND LEGAL ASSISTANCE

January 2, 2010 – December 9, 2011

Hurlburt Field, FL

- Trial counsel and government representative for administrative hearings and criminal trials. Prosecuted 10 courts-martial with 100% conviction rate. Prosecuted Air Force's first synthetic marijuana case; co-authored article analyzing proper case litigation practices shared by Air Force senior leadership to entire Judge Advocate Corps.
- Advised 50 commanders on administrative actions. Directed a rare in absentia administrative discharge hearing of an active duty member following a high-visibility murder conviction.
- Principal legal advisor to pilot flight evaluation boards. Revitalized the flight evaluation board process that evaluates operator certifications and operator requirements within Air Force regulations. Expert advice improved the quality of the board reports and protected pilots' due process rights.
- Responsible for the provision of legal assistance services for 22,000 personnel. Advised 380 legal assistance clients and prepared over 700 legal documents saving clients \$135,000 in legal fees.

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR

September 2012-May 2014

Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, Moody Air Force Base, Georgia

- Instructor for two senior-level aviation law courses, teaching aircraft leasing, medical requirements, environmental impact, aviation labor and employment law, and accident investigations.

EDUCATION

University of Mississippi School of Law, *Juris Doctor*

May 2009

Certificate from the Center for Remote Sensing, Air and Space Law

Aviation Externship Focusing on Aviation Capacity Building in Developing Countries (Malawi)

Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, *Masters of Science Certificate*

May 2014

Aerospace and Aviation Safety

Michigan State University, *Bachelor of Arts*

December 2005

Political Science/Pre-Law

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

- ABA Forum on Air and Space Law Conference - 2018
- AUVSI XPONENTIAL - 2018
- FAA/AUVSI UAS Symposium - 2018
- ABA Forum on Air and Space Law Conference - 2018
- West Government Contracts Year in Review - 2018
- Mobility Unmanned - 2017
- AUVSI XPONENTIAL - 2017
- FBA Transportation Security in the Era of “Drones” - 2017
- FAA/AUVSI UAS Symposium - 2017
- ABA Forum on Air and Space Law Update Conference - 2017
- International Aviation Women’s Association Annual Conference - 2016
- ABA Forum on Air and Space Law - 2016
- ABA Litigation Fundamentals in Modern Times – Aviation and Space Law – 2015
- ABA Tort Trial and Insurance Practice, Aviation and Space Law Litigation Program – 2014
- Army Federal Litigation Course – 2014
- Air Force Board President’s Course – 2014
- Air Force Staff Officer School – 2014 Army Contract Attorney’s Course – 2013
- Air Force Trial and Defense Advocacy Course – 2012
- Army Advanced Trial Advocacy Course -2011
- Court Appointed Special Advocate Training – 2013
- Air Force Military Justice Administration Course – 2012
- Army Domestic Operations Law Course – 2011
- United States Special Operations University Joint Operational Law Training – 2010
- Air Force Special Operations Command Introduction to Special Operations Course – 2010
- Air Force Operations Law Course – 2010
- Air Force Deployment Fiscal Law and Contingency Contracting Course – 2010
- Air Force Accident Investigation Course – 2010
- Air Force Judge Advocate Staff Officer Course - 2012

BAR ADMISSIONS

- United States Supreme Court
- United States Court of Federal Claims
- Supreme Court of Tennessee
- Supreme Court of Illinois
- Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces
- Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals
- District of Columbia Bar

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- International Aviation Women’s Association
- Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International
- Service Women’s Action Network
- American Bar Association: Forum on Air and Space Law; Drone Committee
- American Bar Association: Torts, Trials, and Insurance Practice Section

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Federal District Court Finds Challenged Portions of City Drone Ordinance to Be Preempted, September 22, 2017
- Using Unmanned Aircraft Systems for Infrastructure Inspection Webinar, June 13, 2017, *A Steptoe-sponsored event*
- FAA to Release New Drone-Specific Regulations, April 11, 2017
- Unmanned Aircraft Systems and The National Transportation Safety Board, UAS Magazine, May 2018
- Safety Challenges and the National Transportation Safety Board, ABA Drone Conference, June 5, 2018
- After the Crash: NTSB Investigations Must Be Factored Into AV Testing, Automotive World, June 20, 2018
- FAA Certification of UAS Commercial Delivery Operations, Unmanned Aerial, March 20, 2019