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TRANSPORTATION

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Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP

The Firm: As *"the leading aircraft* attorney finance practice in the USA," this extremely visible 25-lawyer group has a "very broad-based and substantial" practice, ranging from the financing individual aircraft and the of acquisition of aircraft portfolio and leasing companies to export credit financing. The focus, however, lies in the highly structured finance area, advising on capital markets matters such as portfolio securitizations and enhanced equipment trust certificates (EETC). "Well respected and effective on large deals," the team has been involved in all major capital markets transactions in the sector over the past few years, on both the issuer and underwriter sides. With a "great depth of practice" and "high quality and consistency among all its lawyers," the team also represents many bondholders in airline bankruptcies.

Lawyers: The The key lawyers and "works extremely hard its leading sector position, the firm his clients," for which predominantly on the issuer side. He matters over the past year, including acts on a range of matters and notably large aircraft portfolio sales and sales Aircastle on its 2006 advised securitization, and represented AerCap in its acquisition of AeroTurbine. Elliot assist Virgin America with the aircraft Gewirtz, founder of the practice and financing and leasing aspects of its US also one of its leading lawyers, is startup, and represent GE in the heavily focused on securitizations and restructuring of Delta's bankruptcy the representation of underwriters. debt. However, this "very smart and terrific"

AVIATION: FINANCE

also often represents bondholders in bankruptcy proceedings. Sources were also impressed with team members Elihu Robertson and Helfried Schwarz. While Robertson represented the bank syndicate in Terra Firma's \$2 billion acquisition of AWAS, Schwartz - a fluent German-speaker - acted for Austrian Airlines as well as many German lender banks. Meanwhile, Alvin Leong is known for his EETC and capital markets work where he represents underwriters as well as some US carriers.

Clients/Work Highlights: The firm acts for investment banks including Morgan Stanley; Citigroup; JPMorgan Chase; UBS; Goldman Sachs and Lehman Brothers, as well as export banks such as US Ex-Im Bank, the German KfW and the Canadian EDC. The team further represents hedge "excellent" funds, airlines and manufacturers, Drew Fine is one of the firm's including GE and Boeing. Reflecting are was involved in many high-profile and consolidations of aircraft leasing companies. Moreover, the lawyers