

# WATSON FARLEY & WILLIAMS

## JIM BELL

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### JIM BELL

Partner, Asset Finance

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### Summary

Jim has significant experience in advising financiers, lessors and operators on all aspects of structured and asset finance, with the majority of his practice focused on the aviation industry. He has advised on some of the most innovative, complex and high-profile structured and asset finance transactions, including many 'Deal of the Year' award-winning transactions.

Jim's experience includes advising banks, export credit agencies, funds, lessors, airlines, helicopter operators, individuals and manufacturers across a spectrum of aviation matters including debt finance, export finance, operating leasing, PDP finance, portfolio transfers, portfolio and warehouse financing, tax leasing products, debt capital markets products, Islamic finance, helicopter finance, business jet finance, engine finance, OEM purchase agreements, restructurings, regulatory and a range of corporate and commercial matters in the aviation industry.

Jim has been described as "very commercial, bright and talented" and "genuinely one of the very rare aviation lawyers who combines strong technical expertise with an acute business sense" in Legal 500. The AirFinance Journal also note that "Jim has acted on some of the most innovative deals in the market and is very popular with clients for his depth of knowledge and commercial approach."

### Experience

- Advising EMP in the loan and multi-tranche debt capital markets financing in respect of one Airbus A380 and two Boeing 777 aircraft for Emirates (Airfinance Journal's Most Innovative Deal of the Year 2016).
- Advising Etihad Airways in the sale and leaseback of two Airbus A380 aircraft financed by a Murabaha facility from Dubai Islamic Bank, First Gulf Bank and Union National Bank (Airfinance Journal's Sale and Leaseback Deal of the Year 2016).
- Advising BNP Paribas in the Coface-supported bond issuance in respect of ten ATR 72-600 aircraft for Lion Air (Airfinance Journal's Export Credit Deal of the Year 2015).
- Advising Citi in the securitisation of Alpha's shipping portfolio (Marine Money Securitisation Deal of the Year 2014).

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- Advising JP Morgan in the first ever Coface-supported bond issuance in respect of one Airbus A380 aircraft for Emirates (Airfinance Journal Export Credit Agency Deal of the Year 2013).

## Education

- 2005 – 2006: BBP Law School, Legal Practice Course
- 2003 – 2004: BPP Law School, Graduate Diploma in Law
- 1997 – 2000: University of Sussex, BEng First Class Honours degree in Engineering

## Membership of Professional Societies

- Law Society of England & Wales, since 2008