



**Press Release**  
**4 November 2003**

**Leading Aviation Lawyer Launches New Firm**

LONDON - Sean Gates, voted the world's best aviation lawyer by Euromoney's prestigious *Best of the Best 2003* legal guide, has launched Gates and Partners. The new law firm specialises in aerospace, commercial and private equity law.

Together, Mr. Gates and his partners have extensive expertise in aviation insurance and liability issues, disaster management and preparedness, insurance coverage and policy issues and commercial law.

"Our team at Gates and Partners plans to build on a broad spectrum of rock-solid experience and successful client relationships," commented Sean Gates.

The company is inaugurated in the same week that the Montreal convention of 1999 takes effect, changing the passenger, baggage and cargo liability system for international flights in more than 30 countries including the US. Mr. Gates acted as Legal Advisor to the International Union of Aviation Insurers (IUAI) at the Convention in 1999.

Previously senior partner at Beaumont and Son, Mr. Gates has also acted for airlines and their insurers as lead counsel in respect of a substantial number of aviation disasters. He coordinated the defence team of the airlines in the DVT (Deep Vein thrombosis) litigation in the UK, and played a significant role in the defence strategy in the world-wide litigation which is ongoing.

"We are committed to providing a focused client-led service, and aim to shrink the space between our clients' problems and their solutions," says a company spokesman.

Sean Gates, Daniel Soffin, Adosh Chatrath, and the team at Gates and Partners may be reached at telephone: + 44 (0)20-7661-4119, or fax: + 44 (0)20-7488-1181; and are headquartered at 120 Leaman Street, London E1 8EU.\*

\*[Please note that Gates and Partners is now headquartered at 16 Eastcheap, London EC3M 1NH. The main switchboard number is +44 (0)20 7648 6030; the fax number is +44(0)20 7648 6031.]