



Press Release
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Gates and Partners' New Recruits Bring Aerospace Team to Twenty-Nine

London – Gates and Partners, the specialist aviation law firm, is pleased to announce four new recruits to the firm including barrister Roger Whipp. With the recent opening of a Singapore office, the firm now has twenty-nine members in its aerospace team.

Roger Whipp is currently head of aviation of Wragge & Co where he has been handling a range of commercial matters for various clients including British Airways. In addition he brings to the Gates and Partners' commercial and litigation teams ten years of in-house experience with British Airways where he worked as a commercial and dispute resolution lawyer. At Wragge & Co, Roger has been advising British Airways on the high value "power by the hour" maintenance agreements with Rolls-Royce and IAE which support the carrier's major fleet replacement project, and on the transitional arrangements relating to the acquisition of franchise carrier GB Airways by easyJet. He has wide experience of airline commercial matters including aircraft maintenance and frequent flyer programmes. Whilst at British Airways he was responsible for legal support to engineering, cargo, flight operations, relationship marketing and the Terminal 5 project. One highlight was his role as legal adviser during the suspension, reinstatement and ultimate retirement of the British Airways Concorde fleet.

Joanna Kolatsis will be working with both the commercial and liability divisions of Gates and Partners. Presently head of legal services of the travel company and airline operator Libra Holidays Group, Joanna has been heavily involved with airline and tour operator litigation as well as crisis management and commercial agreements in addition to her role performing company secretarial duties at Libra.

Carmen Calvo-Couto joins the firm from Clyde & Co. She has been working in the areas of international travel litigation and personal injury law for seven years. Carmen is also qualified as a Spanish Abogado, holds a private pilot's license; and besides her native Spanish language capability, she has a working knowledge of Portuguese and French. She is an active member of the Executive Committee of the British Spanish Law Association and the Travel & Tourism Lawyers' Association.

Supplementing the small claims department of Gates and Partners, Chris Smith is joining the firm from GB Airways where he was customer relations supervisor responsible for legal claims management representing the airline in all board-level passenger correspondence and non-litigated high-risk files; as well as the handling of litigated claims both directly in small claims court and with legal advisers where necessary.

Senior Partner Sean Gates commented, "Our latest four recruits bring a broad range of experience in aerospace. These appointments demonstrate the dedication of the firm to achieving its goal of providing its aerospace and insurance clients with focussed and commercially oriented advice".



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