



**As the prior chair of the firm's Aviation group, Cliff Maine advised on aviation-related transactions, emergency preparation and response, insurance and risk analysis, litigation and regulatory supervision. A pilot himself, Cliff's lifetime passion for aviation was manifested in everything he did. As a result, he spoke the language of the pilots, mechanics, airlines, entrepreneurs and the business professionals in this specialized industry.**

Cliff served as general counsel to numerous aviation organizations. His aviation clients included some of the largest corporate flight departments in the world.

Cliff negotiated and structured numerous aviation transactions, including domestic and foreign-based aircraft purchase and sale transactions, bonus depreciation, timeshare agreements, interchange agreements, joint and fractional ownership agreements, personal and executive use policies, FAA registrations, Capetown International Registry, and aircraft leasing transactions. Cliff also provided legal counsel on tax-related aviation issues, including federal excise tax planning, state sales and use tax planning, depreciation planning, insurance/risk management and emergency response plans.

In addition to his transactional practice, Cliff regularly represented aviation clients faced with serious lawsuits. He also advised on aviation insurance coverage, warranties and ongoing service and regulatory requirements. As aviation law is a high-profile, focused discipline that demands meticulous attention to detail and thorough risk analysis, Cliff's long experience as both a lawyer and industry insider meant that he could ably guide his client's through even the most turbulent scenarios.

In addition to being a lawyer, Cliff practiced as a licensed certified public accountant in Michigan and Minnesota, formerly working with a large nationwide CPA firm. Clients appreciated Cliff's background in accounting and in the business, tax and regulatory side of aviation deals, which allowed him to understand their business quickly and provide answers to even the most complex questions in a timely manner.

## Clifford G. Maine

### Of Counsel (Retired)

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### EDUCATION

Thomas M. Cooley Law School, (J.D.), 1979

Michigan State University, (B.A.), 1976

### BAR ADMISSIONS

Michigan

### LANGUAGES

English

He was also a frequent speaker for programs conducted by the National Business Aviation Association, Lawyer Pilots Bar Association, and other professional aviation organizations.

In high school, Cliff was an Eagle Scout, took his first solo flight on his 16th birthday, and has been a licensed pilot since the age of 17. He currently is an instrument-rated private pilot and holds a seaplane rating flying a Lake Amphibian.

## **Professional and Community Involvement**

Founding member, National Business Aircraft Association and former chair of its Tax Committee

Board member, Michigan Business Aircraft Association

Member, founding member and past chair, State Bar of Michigan Aviation Section

Board member and founding member, West Michigan Aviation Academy

## **Honors**

The Best Lawyers in America, 2011-2024

Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award, Federal Aviation Administration