

David F. Rifkind

PARTNER

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A transportation regulatory, litigation and transactional attorney, David is highly regarded by clients for his deep knowledge of transportation regulatory law, the transportation industry and political context.

David focuses his regulatory, litigation and transaction practice on the transportation industry. He represents major corporations in complex litigation in federal and state courts, in arbitration and before regulatory agencies and counsels clients on regulatory compliance, dispute resolution and business transactions.

Transportation industry clients depend on David's experience in regulatory law and his industry knowledge to structure corporate transactions and resolve pressing business disputes. He counsels railroads, aviation, marine and motor carrier clients on the common carrier obligation, government affairs, federal preemption, enforcement, appellate litigation, customs and export control and antitrust matters. David also advises on mergers and acquisitions, transportation infrastructure projects and rail line and private aircraft transactions. He heads Stinson's Transportation practice, drawing on the resources of this key group to dynamically support the transportation sector.

PRACTICES & INDUSTRIES

- Energy
- Corporate Finance
- Transportation
- Aviation & Aerospace
- Infrastructure Task Force
- Railroad & Aviation Transportation
- Railroads
- Unmanned Aircraft Systems & Autonomous Vehicles
- Utility Infrastructure

ADMISSIONS

- District of Columbia
- Maryland
- U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia
- U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia

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EXPERIENCE

Focused on transportation law, David has represented rail carriers in major rate and practice reasonableness challenges, breach of the common carrier obligation, federal preemption and demurrage disputes before the Surface Transportation Board (STB).

He has advised carriers and trade associations on rulemakings before federal agencies including the STB, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and represented clients in appellate challenges to rulemakings.

An experienced litigator, David represented carriers in litigation in federal courts and before the STB, in regulatory enforcement proceedings before the FRA, FAA, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) and the Office of Foreign Asset Control and in arbitration proceedings.

He negotiated contracts and counseled clients on transportation agreements, aircraft ownership, lease and management agreements, and other equipment purchase and lease agreements.

He has experience representing foreign investors considering potential investment in transportation and energy infrastructure projects in the U.S.

RECOGNITIONS

Selected to the 2023, 2024 editions of *Best Lawyers in America*©

Recognized by *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business* for Rail Transportation nationwide, 2019-2023

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit

EDUCATION

Georgetown University Law Center, J.D., 1995

- *American Criminal Law Review*, Notes Editor

Emory University, B.A., History, 1989

- National History Honor Society

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PROFESSIONAL & CIVIC ACTIVITIES

Federal Bar Association, Transportation and Transportation Security Law Section, Past Chair

- TransLaw, Past Editor
- Air Transportation Standing Committee, Past Chair

Association of Transportation Law Professionals, Past President

American Bar Association, Forum on Air and Space Law

International Aviation Club

Aero Club of Washington

National Business Aircraft Association

Friends of Bone Marrow Transplant Unit, Children's National Medical Center and organizer of Be Brave and Shave fundraiser events

District of Columbia Bar

Maryland State Bar Association

NEWS

175 Stinson Attorneys Selected to the 2024 *Best Lawyers in America* List

08.17.2023

Chambers USA 2023 Legal Guide Recognizes Stinson Attorneys and Practice Groups

06.05.2023

152 Stinson Attorneys Selected to the 2023 *Best Lawyers in America* List

08.18.2022

The 2022 *Chambers USA* Guide Recognizes Stinson Attorneys and Practice Groups

06.02.2022

Stinson Establishes Infrastructure Task Force to Support Clients

03.08.2022

David Rifkind Talks to *Bloomberg Law* About Rail Competition During Biden Presidency

07.20.2021

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Chambers USA Recognizes Stinson Attorneys and Practice Groups Nationwide
05.25.2021

Chambers USA Recognizes Stinson Attorneys and Practice Groups Nationwide
04.29.2020

PUBLICATIONS

["The Inflation Reduction Act's Sowing of Biofuels for Future Harvests,"](#) *Stinson's Government Contracting Matters Blog*, January 10, 2023

["The Impact of the Coronavirus on the Global Supply Chain,"](#) *Stinson's Government Contracting Matters Blog*, March 12, 2020

["FAA Imposes New Security Requirement for Small Drones, Previews New Regulations for Operations Over People,"](#) *Stinson's Government Contracting Matters Blog*, February 19, 2019

Federal Railroad Administration Updates Civil Penalty Schedules and Guidelines
03.14.2023

Now is Your Chance to be Heard on the FCC's New Proposed Drone Regulations
02.03.2023

The Impact of the Coronavirus on the Global Supply Chain
02.21.2020

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