

Morgan Lewis Lands Baker McKenzie's Aviation Group Leader

By Jack Rodgers

Law360 (March 6, 2025, 1:16 PM EST) -- Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP has hired the former chair of Baker McKenzie's global aviation group as a partner in Washington, D.C., who says she landed at Morgan Lewis because of its culture and focus on a full suite of aviation law-adjacent services.

Jennifer Trock has moved her practice to Morgan Lewis after eight years helping lead Baker McKenzie's practice focused on aviation, as well as its advanced air mobility team. She advises a range of commercial aviation and transportation clients on regulatory, commercial, transactional and other matters.



Jennifer Trock

Trock told Law360 Pulse on Thursday that she was excited about opportunities to grow her practice at Morgan Lewis, noting she works closely with other practices, like with corporate law matters, on finance issues, and with contractual matters.

"But the one thing that runs through it, is that it is commercial aviation-centric," Trock said. "And it is such a heavily regulated industry and a very complicated industry from a global standpoint that, one of my strengths is being able to bring in the right team across a global platform and across practices to best serve the clients in the sector."

Trock also represents clients working in new and emerging transportation areas, like with uncrewed aircraft systems and electric vertical take-off and landing, or eVOTL, craft.

The firm said Trock was one of the first attorneys to represent uncrewed aircraft system clients over a decade ago, and brings her background in advising air mobility stakeholders on regulatory, commercial and other matters, to the team.

A lot of the work involving advanced air mobility, like with unmanned aircraft, is in the eVOTL aircraft space, Trock said. It largely involves the certification, manufacture and operation of those systems, and building the associated infrastructure — like electric charging technology, landing pads and other infrastructure.

"It's been kind of building and building, and people have been really getting into it over the last five or six years, but now we're kind of at that point where the actual introduction of these vehicles are going to become a reality and change the way we get around," Trock said.

Also in the industry is a focus on more traditional drone work, with smaller uncrewed aircraft systems and how they are applied to a variety of industries — like with shipping infrastructure and in law enforcement capacities. Autonomous vehicles are another area of focus, Trock said.

"Just like with ground vehicles, the integration of automated technology into aircraft has been going on for a while, but I think you'll continue to see that accelerate so that it will really transform the way that we travel," Trock said.

Trock earned her law degree from University of Notre Dame, the Law School, and started her career with Chicago's city government, working as an assistant corporation counsel, according to her LinkedIn profile. She got her start working in aviation law there, which she told Law360 Pulse was a happy accident.

"I wanted to work for government coming out of law school, and my first job was with the City of Chicago, and they assigned me to their aviation group, to which I responded, 'I'd love to do that; what is that?'" Trock said.

Working to help oversee Chicago's O'Hare, Midway and Meigs Field airports as part of her work with the city, Trock got hooked on aviation law work and how its issues are steeped in a multitude of legal issues.

"What I love about the industry is that it's super multifaceted," Trock said. "I can go to a cocktail hour and have a full conversation about what I do, but also go to the head of a private equity firm and have the same conversation, because it really transcends everything in all that we do and how we get along."

After five years working with the city, Trock moved to Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP and spent about 14 and a half years there. She joined Baker McKenzie in 2017, according to her LinkedIn profile.

Jami McKeon, Morgan Lewis' chair, said in a statement that Trock's new role with the firm comes amid rapid change in the aviation and transportation sector, making counsel "who anticipate challenges and deliver practical, forward-looking solutions," like Trock, essential.

"With deep industry knowledge and multijurisdictional versatility, Jennifer's addition expands our global aviation practice across teams in the United States, London, the Middle East, and Asia where we serve clients operating across international markets," McKeon said.

Troy S. Brown, who leads Morgan Lewis' litigation practice, said in a statement that Trock's understanding of the aviation sector, "from regulatory complexities to rapidly evolving technologies," would bring an immediate benefit to the firm's clients.

"As advanced air mobility redefines the future of aviation, Jennifer's insight into this area coupled with her years of experience in traditional commercial aviation subsectors equips her to help clients face evolving considerations and embark on new opportunities," Brown said.

--Editing by Nicole Bleier.