



## Vanessa G. Aaron

Associate

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Portland, OR – 971.717.2772

Vanessa Aaron's practice focuses on the defense of a wide range of clients in aviation, personal injury, and product liability matters. Vanessa brings a strategic, technical, and practical approach to all phases of litigation with a proactive approach to litigation risk mitigation. Vanessa's diverse background and operational aviation experience provide her with a wide base of knowledge and skills that she employs daily to serve Wilson Elser's clients.

Vanessa has a technical mind and an intuitive understanding of the engineering elements of aviation and product liability matters. Her clients appreciate her ability to use this skillset to take technical concepts, process, and distill them into digestible information.

Prior to her legal career, Vanessa was an Air Traffic Controller for the Federal Aviation Administration and U.S. Air Force. She is also an FAA-licensed commercial pilot and flight instructor, so she understands how to navigate complex regulatory systems and attain positive outcomes for her clients.

### Aviation & Aerospace

Vanessa's litigation experience in aviation accident cases in Washington and Oregon make her a knowledgeable and trusted resource and litigator in the field. Her experience includes defending a Part 121 airline client at trial arising from a passenger fatality.

### Education

- Lewis & Clark Law School (J.D., *cum laude*, 2020)
  - Lead Article Editor, Lewis & Clark Law Review
  - Judicial Extern to the Hon. John V. Acosta, USDC Oregon

### Services

- Aviation & Aerospace
- Complex Tort & General Casualty
- Product Liability, Prevention & Government Compliance

- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (B.S. Professional Aeronautics, 2010)

### **Bar Admissions**

- Oregon
- Washington

### **Court Admissions**

- U.S. District Court, District of Oregon
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Washington
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Washington

### **Professional Affiliations**

- Lawyer-Pilots Bar Association
- Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, Legal Services Plan Panel Attorney
- Soaring Society of America

### **Awards & Honors**

Selected for inclusion in Oregon Super Lawyers®, Rising Stars™, 2025

## **Representative Matters**

Obtained dismissal of aviation insurer arising from alleged spoliation of evidence arising from helicopter accident.

Successful removal to federal court under federal officer defense arising from aviation accident while performing military contract work.

Secured summary judgment for talc manufacturer for insufficient product identification.

Secured summary judgment for property owner where heavy equipment accident occurred on neighboring property.

Defended Part 121 airline in six-week trial for wrongful death arising from runway overrun accident.