ECONIC PARTNERS

ERIC AMEL

678-849-5552 | eamel@econic.com | Boston

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Airline industry
Competition policy
Financial economics
Regulation

INDUSTRIES OF EXPERTISE AND CASE HIGHLIGHTS

Airlines

- Econometric and statistical analysis and data preparation for filed expert report in United States of America et., al, Plaintiffs, v. American Airlines Group Inc. and JetBlue Airways Corporation., Defendants, United States District Court for The District of Massachusetts, Case Action No. 1:21-cv-11558-LTS, July 11, 2022.
- Analysis and report for Airlines for America on methods of improving the DOT origination and destination ticket survey database, with report filed by the DOT as a supporting document in DOT-OST-2018-0132-0001, “Proposed Rule Origin-Destination Survey of Airline Passengers; Updates,” January 19, 2021.
- Prepared report (with Darin Lee) for Airlines for America, “The U.S. Airline Industry – Myths versus Facts,” presented at webinar November 17, 2021.
- Performed analysis in labor disputes for independent expert testimony and litigation support for numerous carriers including Alaska, American, United, Delta, Northwest, US Airways, JetBlue, Southwest, Atlas, and Midwest in labor arbitrations, Presidential Emergency Boards, and in Federal Court.
- Analyzed potential impact of California meal and rest break legislation on pilot and flight attendant staffing and costs for several litigations.
- Analyzed current ticket distribution systems (GDSs, OTAs, metasearch, etc.), and the impact of potential regulation on the airline industry and consumer choice.
- Analysis for filed reports prepared for Airlines for America, submitted to the U.S. Treasury Department in support of CARES Act Payroll Support Program relief.
- Analysis for a major U.S. carrier on the impact of COVID-19 on passenger airline demand and the airline industry.
- Analysis and data preparation in Damonie Earl, et. Al v. The Boeing Company and Southwest Airlines Co., United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, Civil Action No. 4:19-cv-00507, October 2020.
- Analysis of the impact of increasing DCA slots on air traffic and delays at D.C. area airports.
- Analysis of impact of increasing airline traffic on New York City area air traffic congestion for slot cases for United Airlines and for Airlines for America.
- Analysis and filed reports on trade dispute between the U.S. carriers and Gulf carriers.
- Analysis throughout the merger of American Airlines and U.S. Airways.

- Conducted extensive economic and competitive analysis for United Airlines and to assist in the regulatory clearance for its merger with Continental Airlines in the US, Europe, South and Latin America, and Canada
- Analysis throughout the Chapter 11 restructurings of American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Northwest Airlines, Pinnacle Airlines, Comair and Mesaba, including numerous Section 1113€, 1113€ and Section 1114 hearings as well as providing extensive analysis of carriers' competitive cost positions.
- Analyses for a number of joint venture application before the Department of Transportation as well as foreign regulatory bodies.
- Analyzed the impact on U.S. airlines of US Export-Import Bank (Bank) financing of aircraft purchases by foreign airlines and filed comments on proposed Bank financing guidelines as well as on individual financing proposals.
- Analysis for expert reports filed on behalf of Delta Air Lines in class action baggage fee lawsuit.
- Worked with a major airline in airport lease negotiation, including analysis of potential lease terms, analysis of the economic impact of a proposed major airport project on the regional economy, and analysis of impact of delays the airport both to the airlines and the economy.
- Analysis for class action suit in air cargo price fixing case.
- Analysis on the efficacy and implications of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Rulemaking regarding the potential introduction of slot auctions at New York City area airports.
- Analysis of airport rates and charges for US airlines in Los Angeles airports case.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2025 –	*Econic Partners*, Principal, Boston, MA
2011-2025	*Compass Lexecon, Vice President, Boston, MA*
2006-2011	*LECG*, Senior Managing Economist, Cambridge, MA
2005-2006	*SH&E International Air Transport Consultancy*, Director, New York
2001 – 2005	*Delta Air Lines*, Chief Economist & Director – Revenue Forecasting, Performance and Analysis, Atlanta, GA
1995-2001	*Continental Airlines*, Chief Economist & Managing Director– Revenue Forecasting
1993-1995	*Federal Express*, Technical Advisor, Domestic Forecasting and Pricing
1987-1993	*Arizona State University College of Business*, Assistant Professor of Finance, Tempe, AZ

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

PhD in Economics | Washington University, St. Louis *1988*

BA in Economics and Government | Oberlin College, Oberlin, OH *1982*

REPORTS, DECLARATIONS, AND TESTIMONY

"Comments In Response To The Joint Request For Information On Competition In Air Transportion, By The Departments Of Justice And Transportation," (with Darin Lee, Erin Secatore, and Ethan Singer), Filed in DOT Docket No. ATR 103, Request for Information on Competition in Air Transportation, Jan3, 2025.

"Estimating the Impact of Different Sampling Rates on the Reliability of the U.S. DOT O&D Survey," October 5, 2015. Prepared for Airlines for America. Filed as a supporting document by the DOT in DOT-OST-2018-0132-0001, "Proposed Rule Origin-Destination Survey of Airline Passengers; Updates," January 19, 2021.

Whitepaper (joint with Darin Lee, Erin Secatore and Ethan Singer) on the impact of COVID-19 on U.S airlines, submitted to the U.S. Treasury Department in support of CARES Act Payroll Support Program Extension, July 2020. Prepared for Airlines for America.

Whitepaper (with Darin Lee and Ethan Singer) on the impact of COVID-19 on U.S. airlines submitted to the U.S. Treasury Department in support of CARES Act Payroll Support Program relief. April 2020. Prepared for Airlines for America.

"Assessing the Impact of Subsidized Gulf Carrier Expansion on U.S.-International Passenger Traffic," (with Darin Lee). Filed in DOT docket "Information on Claims Raised about State-Owned Airlines in Qatar and the UAE," June 2015.

"Does the Airline Industry Suffer from Overcapacity? Update," (with Daniel M. Kasper and Darin Lee), 2012. Filed with Department of Policy and Planning Export-Import Bank of the United States Washington, D.C., September 15, 2014.

"Does the Airline Industry Suffer from Overcapacity?" (with Daniel M. Kasper and Darin Lee). Filed with Department of Policy and Planning Export-Import Bank of the United States Washington, D.C., June 3, 2013.

Filed sixteen reports (with Daniel M. Kasper) commenting on proposed U.S. Export-Import Bank financing of aircraft purchases including the applications for: Norwegian (Feb. 9, 2015, and Aug. 19, 2013), Avianca (Sept. 14, 2014), Air China (Aug. 1, 2014, and May 3, 2013), LATAM (May. 20, 2014, July 26, 2013, and Feb. 8, 2013), Emirates (Jan. 6, 2014, and Oct. 15, 2012), Hainan (Sept. 4, 2013),

Qantas (June 28, 2013), Asiana (June 3, 2013), Korean (Feb.8, 2013), Etihad (Jan. 7, 2013), LOT (Oct. 15, 2012).

Filed declaration (with Daniel M. Kasper) in the matter of Proposed Economic Impact Procedures and Methodological Guidelines, Before the Department of Policy and Planning Export-Import Bank of the United States Washington, D.C., October 12, 2011.

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

- "JetBlue and Spirit: Market Analysis Through an Economist's Lens," Transportation Research Board (TRB), Airline Subcommittee Meeting, June 7, 2025.
- "JetBlue and Spirit: Market Analysis Through an Economist's Lens," Transportation Research Board (TRB), Airline Subcommittee Meeting, June 7, 2025.
- "JetBlue and Spirit: Market Analysis Through an Economist's Lens," Transportation Research Board (TRB), Airline Subcommittee Meeting, May 30, 2023.
- "The Evolving Economics of Small Community Air Service," Transportation Research Board (TRB), Airline Subcommittee meeting, June 16, 2022.
- "To Fly or Not to Fly (for Business): That Is the Question," Transportation Research Board (TRB) Airline Subcommittee Meeting, January 5, 2021.
- "The Airline Industry and Recessions," ATRIF conference, September 2019.
- "The State of Competition in the Airline Industry," ATRIF conference, September 2017.
- "Network Airlines." Prepared for The Handbook of Airline Economics, 3rd Edition.
- "The Road to Competition" (with Daniel Kaplan). Prepared for The Handbook of Airline Economics, 3rd Edition.
- "The Airline Industry at Four Snapshots," FAA Forecast Conference, March 2012.
- "Can Load Factors Continue to Increase," FAA Forecast Conference, March 2008.
- "Fuel Prices and Airfares" (with Samuel Engel). Aviation Daily, September 2005.