

Thomas K. Lehrich



Thomas Lehrich is the Assistant Chief Counsel for General Law for the Transportation Security Administration. He came to TSA in July of this year and as the Assistant Chief Counsel he works within the General Legal Services and ethics group. Prior to working for TSA, Tom served for ten years for the Department of Transportation's Office of Inspector General. As the chief counsel with DOT/OIG, he advised the IG and senior Department officials on complex transportation, general law, and oversight issues, and managed the office's ethics program; he also has a wide-range of expertise in aviation and airport law.

Tom has diligently worked on many of the nation's pressing transportation issues, including passenger rail infrastructure, airport expansion and safety, the application of FAA user fees, the review and reform of the Commercial Drivers License Program regulations, and the implications of NAFTA on opening the borders to Mexican trucks. In addition, Tom led the office's work in the well-known truckers' litigation, in which interstate motor carriers challenged the criminal investigative jurisdiction of the DOT IG.

Tom received the highest recognition at DOT/OIG, the Award for Superior Achievement, as well as several awards from the President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency (PCIE).

Accompanying his work at DOT, Tom served on the core selection committee for the Honors Attorney program, and was instrumental in the development of the office's undergraduate and legal internship program, which partners with several highly ranked universities.

Before joining the DOT, Tom was a partner in private practice and led his firm's federal litigation group. Additionally, Tom is an instructor for the Department of Homeland Security at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Academy in Southern Georgia, where he lectures on investigations and administrative law. He has also served as an adjunct law professor at Georgetown University.

Tom enjoys writing on transport legal topics and most recently wrote an article on firearm use on commercial air flights, "Safe Skies with Flying Agents: An Overview of Law Enforcement Officers Carrying Accessible Firearms on Commercial Aircrafts," published in the *ABA Transportation Committee Quarterly*. His works also include articles entitled, "Citizenship Requirements and Why Branson Can't Save United" and "The Passenger Facility Charge Program- A Legal Overview" written for the *Air and Space Law* journal.

Tom is an avid bicycle rider and, despite a busy schedule, rides almost fifteen miles a day. Tom's wife, Debbie, is also a lawyer; they and their three children Mayim, Tayla, and Maxwell reside in Washington, D.C.