

**Matt Koscal**  
**Senior Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer**  
**Republic Airways**



Matt Koscal joined Republic Airways in 2014 as vice president of human resources through which he led a transformational cultural effort across the airline. In 2016, Matt was appointed senior vice president and chief administrative officer and assumed responsibility for labor relations, government affairs, legal, facilities and strategic workforce development initiatives.

In 2018, Matt spearheaded the creation of Republic's Leadership in Flight Training (LIFT) Academy. Prior to joining Republic, he led commercial partnerships, complex negotiations and change initiatives across multiple industries including pharmaceutical and biotechnology. Matt earned his bachelor's degree in management from Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind. and completed executive training programs at the Wharton School of Executive Education.



**Christine (Chris) Sharp** is the Manager of the Aviation Workforce and Education Division at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). In this role, she is overseeing the agency's efforts aimed at introducing students of all backgrounds to aerospace careers and providing them with pathways to get the necessary skills to ensure a diverse and robust aerospace workforce of the future.

Previous to her current role, Chris served as the Staff Director in the FAA's Office of Aviation Workforce Outreach, where she worked with senior executives and staff from across the agency to build strong collaborative networks of stakeholders focused on all aspects of aerospace workforce issues, including: regulatory oversight; congressional mandates; student outreach; partnerships with industry, academia and government; strategic communications; and diversity and inclusion.

Prior to focusing on aerospace workforce issues, Chris was the Manager for Social Collaboration and Engagement in the Office of Communications at the FAA. In that role, she and her team focused on engaging employees to involve them in finding innovative solutions to challenges facing the FAA and the aviation industry.

Chris also spent 20 years in the FAA's Office of International Affairs, where she held a variety of positions, including Desk Officer for Russia and the CIS and Manager for the Europe/Africa/MidEast Staff. She also led agency international efforts as the Program Manager for the Global Leadership Initiative where she focused on bringing together stakeholders from around the FAA to collaborate on the FAA's international strategy and programs.

Chris has a degree from Colgate University in International Relations and a Master's Degree in Organizational Communication from George Mason University.



**Christian A. Klein, Executive Vice President, Aeronautical Repair Station Association (ARSA)**

Christian A. Klein is executive vice president and lead lobbyist for the Aeronautical Repair Station Association (ARSA), the trade association for the global aviation maintenance industry.

In his capacity as a managing partner at Obadal, Filler, MacLeod & Klein, the law firm that runs ARSA, he directs the firm's policy advocacy and association management practice.

Since 2017, Christian has led an aviation industry workforce coalition that successfully lobbied Congress to create the new FAA aviation technician and pilot workforce grant programs.

In addition to his work with the firm and ARSA, for 15 years he was a member of the University of Virginia's adjunct faculty, teaching political communications and PR law and ethics.

Christian is a graduate of the College of William & Mary and Catholic University's law school and congressional politics master's degree program.

He lives in Falls Church, Virginia with his wife and two daughters and spends his weekends schlepping kids to lacrosse practice and exploring Northern Virginia's ethnic food and adult beverage scene.

In what little free time he has left, he produces and acts in independent films.

**Carlos Zendejas**  
**Vice President of Flight Operations**  
**Horizon Air**



As the Vice President of Flight Operations at Horizon Air, Carlos is responsible for safe, reliable and compliant flight operations as well as regulatory compliance with all FAA requirements. He serves as a key member of the senior executive team, overseeing pilot training, flight standards, operational control, crew scheduling, emergency management, operational recovery, meteorology, communications and navigation. Prior to this role, Carlos served in multiple positions at Horizon Air and Alaska Airlines, including Chief Pilot, Seattle-based Chief Pilot, Manager of Line Flying Operations and Line Pilot of the MD 80 and 737.

Carlos earned a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics from Angelo State University while also obtaining his Air Force commission as a Distinguished Graduate in Air Force ROTC. He then attended Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training and earned his Master's of Aeronautical Science degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. Carlos retired from the Air Force Reserves after serving 11 years active duty and 11 years in the reserves.

He's passionate about community involvement and currently serves as an Angel Flight West Board Member, Green River College Aviation Board Member, Civil Air Patrol Member, and Youth Sports Coach. Carlos is married to his spouse of 30+ years, Kathleen, an Air Force veteran as well and they have three children.

**Julie Schell**  
**Vice President of Safety and Regulatory Compliance**  
**Piedmont Airlines**



Julie Schell is the vice president of Safety and Regulatory Compliance at Piedmont Airlines and has served in this role for the past eight years. She oversees all Maintenance, Flight and Ground Handling Safety programs, as well as environmental, OSHA and regulatory compliance issues.

Julie began her aviation career over 20 years ago when she received her Master's Degree in Aviation Safety from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University and a pilot certificate. After working at Allegheny Airlines dba US Airways Express in safety and operation management positions, she transitioned to the FAA. Working at FAA headquarters, Julie worked as an aviation safety analyst with the FAA National Aviation Safety Data Analysis Center (NASDAC) before transitioning to the FAA Whistleblower Protection Program (WBPP) and finally as a subject matter expert on the web content team.

After spending time with the FAA, Julie returned back to the airlines and joined Piedmont in 2013 working in different safety roles.

Julie also serves as the Chair Person for the RAA's Safety Council.

**Peggy Gilligan**

**Former Associate Administrator for Aviation Safety, FAA;  
Board of Governors, Flight Safety Foundation**



Peggy Gilligan served as the Federal Aviation Administration's Associate Administrator for Aviation Safety, leading the organization responsible for setting, overseeing and enforcing safety standards for all parts of the aviation industry. Prior to that position, she served as the FAA Chief of Staff and in various other positions in her 37 year career at the FAA. Ms Gilligan served as the government co-chair of two government/industry groups committed to improving aviation safety by reducing the risk of accidents: the Aviation Safety Information Sharing and Analysis (ASIAS) initiative and the Commercial Aviation Safety Team (CAST) which was recognized for developing an integrated, data-driven strategy that reduced fatal aviation accident risk by 83% over 10 years. She serves on the Board of Governors of the Flight Safety Foundation, and the Board of Directors for the Laura Tabor Barbour Air Safety Foundation and AURA Network Systems, Inc.



Michael Quiello is Vice President Corporate Safety, Security and Operational Excellence for Avelo Airlines. Quiello is responsible for managing nationwide all aspects of aviation safety, security, ground safety and quality for Avelo Airlines and its Crewmembers.

Quiello joined Avelo Airways in December 2020. Prior to that, he served as Vice President of Corporate Safety at United Airlines in Chicago and Vice President of Corporate Safety, Security and Compliance at Delta Air Lines in Atlanta, Georgia. Quiello began his aviation career and started flying while in high school, earning his private pilot license at age 17. After graduating from college, he was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps and was designated a naval aviator after completion of U.S. Navy flight school in Pensacola, Florida and Meridian, Mississippi. He served both stateside and overseas while in the Marine Corps.

He began his commercial aviation career with Delta in 1981 as a B-727 Flight Engineer and served in areas of increasing responsibilities. In the mid 1990s, he was appointed as the Assistant Chief Pilot in the New York domicile and progressed to Chief Pilot-New York, General Manager of International Operations, General Manager and Chief Technical Pilot, Director of Fleets and Director of Flight Safety before assuming the role as Vice President of Safety, Security and Environment. After leaving Delta, he held the same role as Vice President of Safety, Security and Environmental at United Airlines in Chicago.

Quiello has been qualified and flown various commercial and military aircraft to include the Grumman A-6E Intruder, Grumman EA-6A, the electronic warfare version of the Intruder, McDonnell Douglas TA-4 Skyhawk, Grumman TC-4C Academe, McDonnell

Douglas MD-88, Boeing 757, Boeing 767, Boeing 767-400 and the Boeing 777. He is also seaplane and glider rated.

He is a member of various professional organizations and has served on a variety of industry committees including the Airlines for America (A4A) Safety Council, A4A International Operations Committee, the A4A Flight Training Committee, the IATA International Operations Committee, the Flight Safety Foundation Board of Governors in Washington, D.C. and the National Aviation Hall of Fame in Dayton, Ohio, where he serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees. He served as Industry Co-Chair of the FAA Aviation Safety Information Analysis and Sharing (ASIAS) Executive Board in Washington, and the Industry Co-Chair of the Commercial Aviation Safety Team (CAST) in Washington. He currently serves on the Board of Trustees of the University of New Haven in West Haven, Connecticut.

Michael Quiello was honored as the recipient of the 2020 Don Engen Trophy for Aviation Excellence from the Aero Club of Washington. In 2020, he also received the Wesley McDonald Statesman of Aviation Award from the National Aeronautic Association, the Wilkerson Wright Award from the National Aviation Heritage Alliance, the FAA AVS Friend of Safety Award, and the FAA Wright Brothers “Master Pilot” Award.

Michael Quiello is a native of New Haven, Connecticut and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of New Haven. He is a graduate of the U.S. Navy Flight School in Pensacola, Florida and a graduate of the Aviation Safety and Security Certificate Program from The George Washington University in Washington, D.C. He was also honored with a PhD in Engineering (Honoris Causa) from the University of New Haven.

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