Peter J. Kirsch  
Partner – Kaplan Kirsch & Rockwell

Degree: B.A., J.D.  
Alma Mater: Oberlin College, University of Chicago  
Years worked in the industry: 35

- How did you end up in the airport development industry?
  Most lawyers do not plan on the specialty in which they eventually end up working. Same for me – I started working in environmental law and gradually did more airport and transportation-related environmental matters, including several huge airport development projects. That work morphed into a broader interest in airport law – not just environmental matters but also regulatory issues, litigation, financial arrangements and development.

- What do you currently do in the industry?
  As a lawyer, my practice focuses on representing airport sponsors in a wide range of legal matters ranging from new development, airline leases, financial compliance, regulatory oversight and compliance, noise, environmental issues and litigation. Airport law is the largest practice area for our firm and while we continue to represent primarily airport sponsors, we increasingly are being asked to assist private sector investors in airport development projects.

- What advice would you give to a college student considering a career in the airport development industry?
  Airports are like small (and sometimes large) cities – with all the varied challenges and opportunities that brings. The industry is exciting, always changing, often politically difficult, and always critical to the economy of their host communities. Students who are interested in the vitality of their communities, in economic growth opportunities, and in difficult relationships with stakeholders will love the industry!