



Naveen C Rao

Principal
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Naveen Rao is Principal of H4 Advisors LLC based in Arlington, Virginia. H4 provides strategic advice and advocacy on policy and political matters with a focus on aviation and aerospace.

Prior to starting H4 in 2022, Mr. Rao was Senior Regulatory Affairs Counsel at Atlas Air, Inc. where he led the dealings of Atlas Air and its affiliated air carriers, Polar Air Cargo Worldwide, Inc. and Southern Air Inc., with the U.S. Departments Transportation, State, Commerce, Treasury, other federal agencies, and foreign governments to advance the companies' international aviation policy and commercial objectives.

Before joining Atlas Air, Mr. Rao was Counsel on the Subcommittee on Aviation in the U.S. House of Representatives for over four years and helped pass two significant pieces of legislation. He began his professional career in the U.S. Department of Transportation's Honors Attorney program where he worked in the Office of the Secretary, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Office of the Chief Counsel, and the Maritime Administration. At the FAA, he participated in the development of significant regulations including those concerning ETOPS and RNAV operations. Mr. Rao was selected as a Mike Mansfield Fellow while he was serving with the FAA. As a Mike Mansfield Fellow, he was assigned to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport, Japan Fair Trade Commission, and All Nippon Airways in Tokyo over a one-year period. After returning from Japan, Mr. Rao served as Counselor to the Assistant Secretary for Aviation & International Affairs at the U.S. DOT participating in bilateral air service negotiations with China and Japan and advised on aspects of EU-US Open Skies Agreement.

Mr. Rao also worked in the Washington, D.C. offices of Jones Day and Squire Patton Boggs during which he was recognized by Chambers USA and Euromoney for his work in the aviation regulatory field. He also served as the general counsel of Naverus, Inc. which developed PBN flight procedures.

He earned his Juris Doctor and Master of Business of Administration degrees at the University of Arizona and his Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Louisville. Mr. Rao has also completed professional training at the U.S. Department of State and Japan's National Personnel Agency.

Mr. Rao served as President of the International Aviation Club of Washington D.C. and serves on the Board of Governors of the Aero Club of Washington D.C. Mr. Rao is a member of the Japan-America Society of Washington, Japan Commerce Association of Washington, and a non-resident member of the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan. He is a private pilot. Mr. Rao passed Level 2 of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test and remains proficient in written and spoken Japanese.