

EXHIBIT A**American Arbitration Association
Commercial Arbitration Tribunal**

In the Matter of the Arbitration between:

1054 PC-12 LLC, hereinafter referred to as
"CLAIMANT"

And

SkyTech, Inc., , hereinafter referred to as
"RESPONDENT"

Case Number 77 181 00254 09 JMLE

AWARD OF ARBITRATOR**REASONED OPINION AND AWARD OF ARBITRATOR****CASE PRECIS**

This is a contract dispute concerning a purchase and sales agreement on an aircraft.

SUMMARY OF CLAIMS

Claimant seeks the return of its deposit on the grounds that Respondent breached the contract by not delivering the aircraft with the correct carpet. Respondent contends that the aircraft and carpet meet the contract specifications, and that Claimant breached the contract by wrongly failing to go forward with the transaction. Claimant denies that it was properly notified of the aircraft delivery date with the due formality. Respondent alleges that Claimant used fraud to induce it to

Award of Arbitrator—Reasoned Opinion

1 enter into the contract, and it claims consequential damages
2 beyond the liquidated damages allowed under the contract.

3 **FINDINGS**

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5 I, THE UNDERSIGNED ARBITRATOR, having been designated in
6 accordance with the arbitration agreement entered into by the
7 parties dated January 7, 2008, and having been duly sworn and
8 having duly heard the proofs and allegation of the parties
9 hereby, FIND, as follows:

- 10
11 1. In an earlier transaction, Mr. Charles Kuhn, through
12 an LLC, attempted to purchase an aircraft from
13 Respondent, but that transaction failed.
- 14 2. The reason the first transaction failed was due to Mr.
15 Kuhn's failure to meet decision deadlines on the
16 aircraft construction schedule.
- 17
18 3. In that first transaction, Respondent declared Mr.
19 Kuhn's LLC in default, terminated the contract,
20 retained Mr. Kuhn's deposit as liquidated damages,
21 "closed the books" on the matter, and made a corporate
22 business decision to not have any further dealings
23 with Mr. Kuhn.
- 24
25 4. After Mr. Kuhn's first attempt to purchase the
26 aircraft failed, Mr. Lockshin, a friend of Mr. Kuhn,
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1 and a well-respected frequent customer of Respondent,
2 intervened to revive the contract.

3 5. Mr. Lockshin made false representations to Respondent
4 to induce Respondent to restore the contract. The
5 fraudulent representations created the understanding
6 on the part of Respondent that Mr. Lockshin was to be
7 a part owner of the aircraft. His assertion that he
8 had a "big stake in that airplane" and "this would be
9 his 5th purchase of an airplane" from Respondent gave
10 Respondent the clear understanding that Mr. Lockshin
11 had the authority to make needful decisions concerning
12 the interior, the paint scheme, the avionics suite and
13 some of the other pre-delivery issues which still
14 remained unresolved in the aircraft transaction.

15 6. Respondent wanted to keep Mr. Lockshin as a valued
16 customer. Mr. Lockshin had an excellent transactional
17 record with Respondent from prior aircraft purchases,
18 and Respondent wanted to maintain that good
19 relationship with him.

20 7. In meetings with Respondent's President, Mr. Lockshin
21 offered to take charge of the remainder of the
22 acquisition process and he assured Respondent that if
23 Respondent would revive the contract, he would be able
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1 to remedy the delays, indecisiveness and acrimony
2 which Respondent had experienced while dealing with
3 Mr. Kuhn.

4
5 8. In actuality, Mr. Lockshin had no ownership interest
6 in the aircraft.

7 9. Respondent relied on the false statements of Mr.
8 Lockshin. It restructured the transaction by novation,
9 set aside the default, restored the previously
10 retained deposit funds, and it allowed the transaction
11 to go forward, but only on certain conditions set
12 forth more fully below.

13
14 10. Respondent's attorney required the assurance that
15 Mr. Kuhn would no longer be a factor in the
16 transaction, so Mr. Kuhn set up another LLC,
17 designated Mr. Lockshin as the Manager, executed a
18 mutual release and assignment of rights between the
19 LLCs and then, once distanced from Mr. Kuhn, the
20 Claimant entered into a Novation with the Respondent
21 which renewed the contract with Mr. Lockshin as their
22 decision maker in the acquisition process.

23
24
25 11. Respondent would not have revived the contract
26 and exposed itself to the present loss had it doubted
27 Mr. Lockshin's representations about having an
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1 ownership interest, and his ability to shepherd the
2 contract to fruition without further difficulties.

3 12. As the "second effort" towards completing the
4 contract progressed, it became clear to Respondent
5 that Mr. Lockshin was not so much an independent
6 manager authorized to make aircraft construction
7 decisions as he was a convenient cut-out-man and
8 message-bearer between Respondent and the ostracized
9 Mr. Kuhn.
10

11 13. The deal fell through again, only this time,
12 instead of Respondent ending up holding Mr. Kuhn's
13 deposit, Respondent was left holding an unsold,
14 customized, completed aircraft worth about \$4 million
15 dollars, which required extensive re-work to be
16 marketable to any other buyer, all of which would cost
17 a significant amount.
18

19 14. Respondent properly retained the deposit upon the
20 second declaration of default and termination of the
21 contract.
22

23 15. Beyond the amount retained as liquidated damages,
24 Respondent suffered consequential damages amounting to
25 \$255,596, exclusive of legal costs and attorney fees,
26 as a result of the Claimant's fraud-in-the-inducement.
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1 16. Pursuant the terms of Section 10.5 of the
2 purchase agreement, the governing laws of this case
3 are the laws of the State of Colorado, which includes
4 the Uniform Commercial Code, UCC.
5

6 17. Pursuant to the terms of Section 10.6 of the
7 purchase agreement, the methodology for resolution of
8 disputes is by binding arbitration through the
9 American Arbitration Association.
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11 18. Pursuant to the terms of Section 10.6 of the
12 purchase agreement, the decision of the arbitrator
13 shall be final and shall not be subject to judicial
14 review.
15

16 19. Pursuant to the terms of Section 10.6 of the
17 purchase agreement, the parties shall be responsible
18 for their own costs and legal fees, if any; provided,
19 however, that the arbitrator shall be empowered to
20 award to a prevailing party its reasonable costs,
21 expenses and legal fees.
22

23 20. Pursuant to the terms of Section 10.6 of the
24 purchase agreement, the arbitrator shall have
25 jurisdiction to determine, "any claim, controversy or
26 dispute relating to or arising out of or *in connection*
27 *with* this agreement.
28

1 21. Respondent's counter-claim for fraud-in-the-
2 inducement is a *claim controversy or dispute relating*
3 to or arising out or in connection with this
4 agreement.

5
6 22. Claimant entered into an aircraft purchase
7 agreement with Respondent.

8 23. There is a visible difference in the quality and
9 appearance of the carpet provided by Respondent versus
10 the carpet desired by Claimant.

11
12 24. The contract did not require Respondent to use
13 the specific carpet desired by Claimant, but only to
14 secure and install a "custom match" for that carpet.

15 25. Respondent did secure and install a "custom
16 match" for the desired carpet.

17
18 26. The "custom match" carpet, while not up to the
19 same quality, was nonetheless adequate and
20 satisfactory to a commercially acceptable standard.

21 27. The obligation when outfitting an aircraft with
22 carpet is to use materials acceptable to the FAA of
23 which are at least satisfactory to a commercially
24 acceptable standard.

25
26 28. The installation of the "custom match" carpet by
27 Respondent did not breach the terms of the contract.
28

1 29. Respondent's installation of a "custom match" of
2 the specific carpet did not excuse Claimant's further
3 performance on the contract.
4

5 30. Claimant failed to perform his duties under the
6 contract, by failing to timely take delivery and pay
7 for the aircraft after having been given notice that
8 the aircraft was "ready-for-delivery."
9

10 31. Claimant's failure to go forward with the
11 transaction based on its claimed dissatisfaction of
12 the choice of carpet was a breach of the contract.
13

14 32. Claimant's breach of contract entitled Respondent
15 to terminate the contract and to retain the deposit
16 sums as the agreed amount of liquidated damages.
17

18 33. Respondent gave Claimant notice of "ready-for-
19 delivery" on October 24, 2008.
20

21 34. The October 24, 2008 notice satisfied the formal
22 notice requirements set forth in Section 9 of the
23 contract.
24

25 35. Only one "ready-for-delivery" notice is required
26 under the contract, according to industry standards
27 made applicable to this transaction by the UCC.
28

 36. Subsequent slippage of the actual delivery date
 due to the discovery and correction of defects or

1 discrepancies does not require the issuance of a new
2 and different, formal "ready-for-delivery" notice.

3 37. Claimant was given the required "not less than
4 *five business days*" notice prior to the "ready-for-
5 delivery" date.
6

7 38. Respondent notified Claimant of the slippage in
8 the "ready-for-delivery" date.

9 39. Claimant had actual knowledge of the changed
10 "ready-for-delivery" date.
11

12 40. Claimant failed to perform its remaining duties
13 to pay the price and take delivery within the five
14 business days of the revised "ready-for-delivery" date
15 provided under Section 7 of the contract.
16

17 41. The mechanism for providing notice is set forth
18 in Section 9 of the purchase agreement. The time
19 constraint for the giving of notice concerning the
20 "ready-for-delivery" date is set forth in Section 5 of
21 the purchase agreement. The obligation for purchaser
22 to take action within five business days of the
23 delivery date is set forth in Section 7 of the
24 purchase agreement.
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1 42. The contract required Respondent to notify
2 Claimant at least 15 days prior to the "ready-for-
3 delivery" date.
4

5 43. Respondent complied with the requirement to
6 notify Claimant at least 15 days prior to the "ready-
7 for-delivery" date.
8

9 44. Subsequent notice to Claimant of the changed
10 "ready-for-delivery" dates was accomplished by
11 Respondent as problems were discovered and resolved,
12 and it became necessary to change the original "ready-
13 for-delivery" date.
14

15 45. Once Claimant received the initial "ready-for-
16 delivery" date with observance of the due and
17 appropriate formalities as provided under Section 9,
18 the subsequent changes in the actual delivery date
19 were satisfied by actual notice to Claimant.
20

21 46. Such notice was adequate and effective, both
22 under the contract, and under the UCC which authorizes
23 the consideration of the "normal custom and practice
24 in the industry" as the appropriate standard.
25

26 47. The "normal custom and practice in the industry"
27 is to give only a single formal "ready-for-delivery"
28 date notice, and if any subsequent changes are

1 necessary, "actual notice" by any reasonable means is
2 sufficient to advise the purchaser of the revised
3 date.

4
5 48. The purchaser has five business days to perform
6 the "take delivery" and "pay" obligations under
7 Section 7 of the aircraft purchase agreement.

8 49. Claimant failed to perform under Section 7 of the
9 purchase agreement when notified that the aircraft was
10 finally "ready-for-delivery".

11
12 50. As a consequence of the failure of Claimant to
13 purchase the aircraft, Respondent was contractually
14 obligated to purchase the aircraft from the factory,
15 and to try to find a buyer to purchase it after it had
16 been customized to the personal choices of Claimant.
17 This resulted in lost profits from the sale of the
18 aircraft in the amount of \$200,000. During the time
19 the aircraft was hangared, Respondent had to pay
20 interest and insurance costs amounting to \$120,437.
21 When a buyer was found, it was necessary to have the
22 aircraft hull stripped and repainted to remove the
23 custom color scheme chosen by Mr. Kuhn. The cost of
24 having to repaint the aircraft to satisfy the next
25 buyer was \$49,123. During the time the aircraft was
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1 held for sale, it had to be maintained in flight-ready
2 condition so it could be taken up for demonstration
3 flights. The maintenance necessary to keep the
4 aircraft in fly-away condition was \$36,000. In
5 addition, the Respondent had to pay attorneys and
6 legal costs associated with this failed transaction.
7

8 **COLORADO'S ECONOMIC LOSS RULE CONSIDERED**

9 Claimant argues that Respondent cannot bring a claim for a
10 tort in connection with a contract case. Citing Colorado's
11 *Economic Loss Rule*. With respect the Respondent's counter-claim
12 in fraud, it is well settled that under Colorado's *Economic Loss*
13 *rule*, the tort of fraud may not be maintained in a contracts
14 case, but an exception arises when the fraud takes the nature of
15 fraud-in-the-inducement.
16
17

18 **FRAUD-IN-THE-INDUCEMENT EXCEPTION TO COLORADO ECONOMIC LOSS RULE**

19 Because fraud-in-the-inducement necessarily takes place
20 before the contract is formed, it is not prohibited under the
21 Colorado *Economic Loss Rule*. The elements of a prima facie case
22 of fraud in Colorado are enumerated in Morrison v. Goodspeed,
23 100 Colo. 470, 68 P.2d 458 (1937). They are:
24

- 25 1. A false representation of a material existing fact, or
26 a representation as to a material existing fact made
27 with a reckless disregard of its truth or falsity; or
28

1 a concealment of a material existing fact, that in
2 equity and good conscience should be disclosed.

3
4 2. Knowledge on the part of the one making the
5 representation that it is false; or utter indifference
6 to its truth or falsity; or knowledge that he is
7 concealing a material fact that in equity and good
8 conscience he should disclose.

9
10 3. Ignorance on the part of the one to whom
11 representations are made or from whom such fact is
12 concealed, of the falsity of the representation or of
13 the existence of the fact concealed.

14 4. The representation or concealment made or practiced
15 with the intention that it shall be acted upon.

16
17 5. Action on the representation or concealment resulting
18 in damage

19 **SPECIFIC FINDINGS RELATING TO THE CLAIM OF FRAUD-IN-THE-**
20 **INDUCEMENT**

21 In this matter on consideration of the claim of fraud-in-
22 the-inducement, the arbitrator makes specific findings as
23 follows:
24

25 1. Mr. Lockshin misrepresented to Respondent that he had
26 a significant ownership interest in the aircraft.
27
28

1 2. While the pre-delivery title to the aircraft remained
2 with the Manufacturer, Respondent certainly knew that
3 Mr. Lockshin could not possibly have had an existing
4 ownership interest in the aircraft.
5

6 3. Notwithstanding the fact that the title had not
7 departed the manufacturer it was possible that Mr.
8 Lockshin's representations concerning having an
9 ownership interest in the aircraft were legitimate,
10 but prospective in nature.
11

12 4. From Respondent's point of view, if Mr. Lockshin
13 believed that he was an owner, or was about to become
14 an owner, or was about to become a partial owner, then
15 it would seem reasonable for Respondent to believe
16 that Mr. Lockshin had a strong enough interest in the
17 aircraft to want to make the deal go through without
18 further problems. That fact, together with his past
19 history of successful aircraft purchases from
20 Respondent could well have been a factor in inducing
21 Respondent to resume the halted transaction.
22

23
24 5. The law does impose liability for misrepresentation of
25 events or facts which have yet to occur, such as "our
26 team will beat your team next Friday night!" With
27 rare exception, events which have yet to take place
28

1 are speculative. Typically, they are not reasonably
2 the subject of detrimental reliance. Nonetheless, the
3 law does impose liability for misrepresentation of
4 events or facts which have yet to transpire in certain
5 kinds of cases, particularly in cases involving
6 "insider trading" or as in the classic "stock-tip"
7 from an "inside source" line of cases.
8

9 When someone who has a particular inside
10 connection with the matter tells someone else that
11 something is "about" to happen, or that it "will"
12 happen, then his representations are not as readily
13 dismissible as mere speculation. They are often given
14 great credence. They are given great credence because
15 of who the person is, what he knows, and how he acts,
16 and because he has access to information which is not
17 generally available.
18
19

20 In this case, Mr. Lockshin had an outstanding
21 track record with Respondent. His word was accepted
22 on face value.
23

24 6. Mr. Lockshin e-mailed Respondent as follows:

25 "Can you call my cell (number redacted)? I just got
26 back in cell range after being on my boat for three
27 weeks and understand things with PC12 have fallen
28

1 apart. I'm not sure what happened, but we need to
2 get things back on track. *This is my airplane, too,*
3 so *this affects me in a big way.* I have been a good
4 customer of yours and *this would be my fifth*
5 *airplane purchase.* This can and should get
6 straightened out."
7

8 7. His statement that this *IS* his airplane suggests that
9 he has a present, not a future interest in the
10 aircraft.
11

12 8. His statement that this *AFFECTS* him [present tense,
13 not future conditional tense] in a big way, suggests
14 that the affect is in the present, not *in futuro.*
15

16 9. His statement that this would be his fifth airplane
17 purchase, when in fact he has only made four prior
18 purchases from Respondent suggests that *HE* is making
19 this purchase, *personally.*
20

21 10. For these reasons, apart from his oral
22 representations when conversing with Respondent, the
23 arbitrator concludes that Mr. Lockshin *claimed* a
24 PRESENT ownership interest in the aircraft. Whatever
25 that may have meant to him may be open to discussion,
26 but to Respondent it meant that Respondent could rely
27 that if Mr. Lockshin got involved in the project, the
28

1 prior problems would go away. This was approximately
2 a \$4 million transaction, and Respondent wanted those
3 problems to go away.
4

5 11. Mr. Lockshin's representations that he was an
6 owner, that he had a big stake in the airplane and
7 that he would involve himself to save the transaction
8 were material facts in Respondent's decision on
9 whether or not re-open the closed case involving Mr.
10 Kuhn.
11

12 12. The fraud was not that Mr. Kuhn was still
13 distantly involved in the transaction. It was well
14 known to Respondent that Mr. Kuhn was the ultimate
15 intended end-user of the aircraft. The fraud existed
16 in the false claim that Mr. Lockshin had an ownership
17 interest [even if only an expected future interest] in
18 the aircraft, because if Mr. Lockshin were truly an
19 owner, he could be expected to behave as an owner. He
20 had already shown himself to be a decisive, timely and
21 reasonable aircraft purchaser. If he had a strong
22 personal involvement in this transaction, Respondent's
23 concerns could be assuaged and the project could be
24 put back on track.
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1 13. Mr. Lockshin overstated his involvement. He knew
2 that he did not have an actual ownership interest in
3 the aircraft. His expectation was that at some point
4 Mr. Kuhn would let him fly the aircraft under some
5 kind of barter-for-time-swapping arrangement.
6

7 14. Respondent was ignorant of the true status of Mr.
8 Lockshin's interest in the aircraft, and Respondent
9 relied on Mr. Lockshin's misleading and ambiguous
10 ownership claims.
11

12 15. Mr. Lockshin made misrepresentations of his
13 ownership interest in the aircraft with the intention
14 that Respondent should act upon them so as to make
15 Respondent reopen the closed transaction and permit
16 the sale to go forward.
17

18 16. Respondent did take action on the representations
19 by reopening the closed transaction. By doing so, it
20 exposed itself to a prospective financial loss as the
21 sale progressed towards a second default. That loss
22 ultimately amounted to a figure exceeding \$405,560.
23

24 17. Mr. Lockshin's conduct amounted to a fraud-in-
25 the-inducement in that it was calculated to make
26 Respondent re-entangle itself in bad business
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1 transaction from which it had already successfully
2 extricated itself.

3
4 18. The fraud-in-the-inducement committed by Mr.
5 Lockshin took place after the contract with Mr. Kuhn
6 was terminated and before the contract with Claimant
7 was entered into. In other words, it happened in the
8 time gap between the two contracts. For that reason,
9 is properly characterized as a fraud-in-the-
10 inducement. The inducement being for the purpose of
11 getting Respondent to revisit a closed contract.
12

13 19. At the time of the perpetration of the fraud-in-
14 the-inducement, Section 7 was not operative as a
15 limitation constraining damages to liquidated damages.
16

17 20. Beyond liquidated damages, Respondent suffered
18 consequential damages set forth elsewhere in this
19 award.

20 21. In addition, Respondent incurred legal costs and
21 the costs of arbitration set forth elsewhere in this
22 award.
23

24 **LIMITATION UNDER SECTION 7 OF THE CONTRACT REGARDING LIQUIDATED**
25 **DAMAGES BEING THE SOLE AND EXCLUSIVE REMEDY AVAILABLE TO**
26 **RESPONDENT**
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1 Section 7 of the purchase agreement contains language to
2 the effect that in the event of a failure by the purchaser to
3 perform, seller shall: "have the right, as its sole and
4 exclusive remedy against Purchaser, to terminate this agreement
5 and retain as liquidated damages all deposits (including
6 progress payments) and other amounts previously paid by or on
7 behalf of Purchaser."

9 The issue of whether the language in Section 7 acts as a
10 bar to any recovery under a fraud-in-the-inducement case was not
11 raised during the arbitration, so by implication, was waived as
12 an issue. Nonetheless, because the arbitrator is concerned that
13 the award not be set aside on grounds that the award exceeded
14 the scope of the contract, it is addressed hereunder.

16 Section 7 specifies that liquidated damages are the sole
17 and exclusive remedy for a breach of contract resulting in a
18 default by purchaser, but it is not applicable to a claim
19 arising before the contract is formed. By definition, the tort
20 of fraud-in-the-inducement takes place antecedent to the
21 formation of the contract.

24 It is the arbitrator's determination that Section 7's
25 language about liquidated damages being the sole and exclusive
26 remedy of Purchaser in the case of a default is not a limitation
27 of Seller's claim for consequential damages for a claim of
28

1 fraud-in-the-inducement antecedent to the formation of the
2 contract.

3 **APPLICABILITY OF THE ARBITRATION CLAUSE TO AN ACT ARISING BEFORE**

4 **THE FORMATION OF THE CONTRACT**

5
6 The parties have conferred upon the arbitrator, by virtue
7 of Section 10.6 of the purchase agreement, authority to
8 determine "any claim, controversy or dispute relating to or
9 arising out of or in connection with this agreement."

10
11 A claim, controversy or dispute has arisen between the
12 parties about whether the Respondent was fraudulently induced to
13 enter into the purchase agreement with Claimant. While the act
14 of inducement necessarily takes place outside the contract
15 period, it is within the arbitrator's authority to consider
16 because it is a claim, controversy or dispute which relates to,
17 arises from or is in connection with this agreement.

18
19 **IMPLIED COVENANT OF GOOD FAITH AND FAIR DEALING, FRAUD-IN-THE-**
20 **INDUCEMENT, CONTINUING ACTS OF MISREPRESENTATION, LIABILITY OF**

21 **LLC FOR SUBSEQUENT ACTS OF RATIFICATION AND AFFIRMATION**

22
23 Claimant, an LLC, was not in existence at the time the
24 false representations were first made by Mr. Lockshin. Mr.
25 Lockshin was not an officer nor was he the Manager of the LLC at
26 the time he first made those statements. The formation of the
27 LLC had not yet even been formed in the mind of the Respondent's
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1 attorney. Claimant can not be held accountable for the
2 fraudulent inducement perpetrated by Mr. Lockshin, absent some
3 act in adoption ratification or affirmation of his fraudulent
4 representations after Claimant came into legal existence. In
5 this case those elements exist.
6

7 The evidence adduced at the arbitration hearing was that
8 Mr. Lockshin, after assuming his position as Manager of the LLC
9 continued to affirm his claimed ownership interest in the
10 aircraft. He continued to affirm that he was able to shepherd
11 the project to a successful completion, was empowered to make
12 decisions, execute the duties of a Manager, and bring the
13 project to fruition. By his conduct and by his claims after
14 taking a management role in Claimant, he ratified and affirmed
15 the fraudulent claims he made to Respondent before Claimant came
16 into existence, and by so doing, he made the LLC a party to the
17 fraudulent inducement when it otherwise would not have been a
18 party.
19
20

21 Mr. Lockshin had a duty to the LLC to take no action which
22 might expose it to the risk of legal action. To faithfully
23 perform his duty to the LLC, he should have distanced the LLC
24 from his earlier fraudulent claims by explaining to Respondent
25 that his earlier claims were not the position of the LLC, that
26 they were in fact false, and that they were the product of his
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1 own falsification. Instead, he continued the ruse and exposed
2 the LLC to liability by making it party to the falsehoods.

3 Apart from his duty to the LLC, as Manager of Claimant, Mr.
4 Lockshin, and by extension the Claimant, had a duty under the
5 implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing, to not allow
6 Respondent to rely on false representations created by Mr.
7 Lockshin before and during the contract period. Again, instead,
8 Claimant continued the ruse and exposed the LLC to liability by
9 making it party to the falsehoods.
10

11 It was not until the depositions which followed the
12 collapse of the transaction that Mr. Lockshin fully admitted
13 that he had no right, title or interest in the aircraft. Had he
14 made that clear at the onset, Respondent would not have been
15 induced to resuscitate the contract the first time it was
16 terminated.
17

18
19 MR. KUHN'S REASONS FOR NOT ACCEPTING DELIVERY

20 Only when the aircraft was fully "ready-for-delivery", Mr.
21 Kuhn indicated that the carpet was not to his liking.
22 Previously, he and his wife had inspected the aircraft in an
23 unauthorized, uninvited and spontaneously announced drop-in
24 visit to Respondent's facility, and at that time they were heard
25 to approve of the carpet selection. Only when it came time to
26 pay for the aircraft, was the carpet not to his satisfaction.
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1 In fact, Respondent had fully complied with the terms and
2 specifications in the contract with respect to the carpet.

3 Even though Respondent had fully complied with the terms of
4 the contract, and owed Claimant nothing, it was reluctant to let
5 an approximately \$4 million dollar airplane deal go bad for the
6 price of an \$18,000 carpet, so Respondent offered to credit
7 Claimant with a cash offset of \$20,000 if it would accept the
8 aircraft with the "as built" carpet. Mr. Kuhn, now disregarding
9 the corporate formalities of the LLC, dealt directly with
10 Respondent. He refused Respondent's offer. He accused
11 Respondent of breaching the contract and sought the return of
12 his deposit.
13
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15 There were technical, legal and contractual reasons why
16 Respondent could not install the carpet Mr. Kuhn wanted, but
17 none them prevented the installation of the desired carpet once
18 the title to the aircraft changed and became Mr. Kuhn's.
19 Respondent then offered to procure *the very* carpet Mr. Kuhn
20 wanted *at Respondent's expense, and to install it without charge*
21 *after the deal closed.* This installation was to take place when
22 the aircraft was next returned for scheduled upgrades. Those
23 upgrades were already part of the sales package, and they
24 included upgrades which could not be installed before the
25 delivery date because they were awaiting FAA approval. The
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1 installation of those upgrades would already require removal of
2 the existing carpet to gain access to the Avionics Bay, so the
3 carpet switch would not entail any additional wear or tear on
4 the aircraft to change out during the maintenance period.

5
6 Again, Mr. Kuhn refused.

7 Mr. Kuhn eventually told Respondent that he was having
8 trouble selling his current aircraft, and that he could not
9 afford to have two airplanes at the same time. He told
10 Respondent that as long as he still owned his other airplane he
11 would not accept the new plane *regardless of which* carpet was
12 installed.
13

14 The apparent truth of the matter is: Mr. Kuhn's refusal to
15 pay for the aircraft was based the state of the economy, not the
16 state of the carpet. Mr. Kuhn now proposed that Respondent buy
17 his old plane. Only then, he said, would he go forward with the
18 transaction. Respondent thoughtfully considered the matter,
19 explored the market and determined the likely going price for
20 Mr. Kuhn's trade-in aircraft. Respondent told him that the
21 Respondent could only buy the old aircraft for its current
22 (depressed) value, but if they were fortunate enough to find a
23 buyer willing to pay more than the current value, they would
24 share the profits with him. Mr. Kuhn refused, holding out for a
25 higher amount. Again, the sale could not be revived.
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1 The aircraft met every specification on the purchase
2 agreement, and even though there were discernable differences
3 between the carpet he wanted and the carpet he got, the carpet
4 was permitted under the contract. The contract allowed for a
5 "custom match," and that is what Respondent delivered, a "custom
6 match."
7

8 A reasonable buyer would have taken the aircraft,
9 especially in light of Respondent's willingness to "cure" any
10 perceived defects or deficiencies. Respondent's offers to
11 satisfy Mr. Kuhn by replacing the carpet at their own expense,
12 or in the alternative to given him a cash offset to take the
13 carpet "as is," were both rejected.
14

15 Mr. Kuhn's offer to go forward with the deal on the
16 condition that Respondent purchase his aircraft at an inflated
17 price was unreasonable.
18

19 When it became clear that the deal had collapsed, the
20 parties decided that it would be in the best interest of all
21 parties if Respondent sought a different buyer to take over the
22 completed aircraft.
23

24 Mr. Kuhn wanted the aircraft to be moved away from
25 Respondent's site, and he wanted to prevent the use of the
26 aircraft for demonstration flights unless his personal pilot was
27 present. Neither of these requirements was reasonable in light
28

1 of the logistics of arranging demonstration flights in another
2 part of the country and the difficulty of coordinating those
3 flights with a pilot who is rarely available. Moreover, at this
4 point, Mr. Kuhn had no right, title or interest in the aircraft.
5 He was in default, his contract had been terminated and his
6 deposit had been retained as liquidated damages. At this point
7 in the transaction, his views had no traction.
8

9 During this time period, Mr. Kuhn wrote at least one very
10 unkind expression of what he wanted to happen to one of
11 Respondent's employees. While the arbitrator may characterize
12 that statement as coarse locker room talk, once it surfaced
13 during the discovery process, it takes on relevance to shed
14 light on his mindset at the time. Charitably put, it might be
15 said that Mr. Kuhn was more intent on causing harm to Respondent
16 than trying to work out a solution to their dilemma.
17
18

19 Mr. Kuhn effectively thwarted the sale, unreasonably
20 vetoed Respondent's good faith efforts to "cure" the perceived
21 deficiencies and objected to the Respondent's efforts to
22 mitigate its losses. His e-mailed communiqué expressing the
23 hope that one of Respondent's personnel would come to a slow and
24 painful end [arbitrator's sanitized characterization] shows an
25 unflattering aspect of his approach to business. The arbitrator
26 is unable to find that his conduct in this case was imbued with
27
28

1 the requisite measure of "good faith and fair dealing" which is
2 to be implied in every contract.

3 While Mr. Kuhn is not a named party in this case, he is a
4 real party in interest, and the Claimant is his alter ego. In
5 the end, when the transaction broke down, he dropped all
6 pretence of distanced dealing and resumed direct contacts with
7 Respondent.
8

9 The pretense of the Claimant, as an LLC seems to have been
10 dispensed with when he undertook direct negotiations with
11 Respondent concerning the sale of his old airplane. Because Mr.
12 Kuhn and Claimant are, for all intents and purposes, the same,
13 his intentions may be imputed to Claimant, and the issue of
14 Claimant's bad faith dealing with Respondent becomes clear.
15
16

17 **THE MEASURE OF DAMAGES**

18 While Respondent was once was \$150,000 in the plus column
19 when this transaction began, after the fraudulent inducement,
20 and subsequent fallout, Respondent is now \$105,596 in the minus
21 column. The difference in Respondent's before and after
22 position is \$255,596.
23

24	Lost Profits from Sale of Aircraft	\$200,000
25	Interest and Insurance Costs	\$120,000
26	Repainting the Aircraft	\$ 49,123
27	Maintenance	\$ 36,000
28		

1	Total	\$405,596
2	Less Current Deposit	-\$300,000
3		
4	Difference equals New Loss	\$105,596
5		
6	The old deposit	
7	+\$150,000	
8		
9	Total Loss old and new	\$255,596

AWARD

For the foregoing reasons, I award as follows:

As liquidated damages, Judgment is for Respondent, against Claimant in the amount of \$300,000 with credit given to Claimant for \$300,000 already paid as deposit for funds already retained by Respondent. This amount is already in Respondent's hands and need not further addressed by Claimant.


As consequential damages, Judgment is for Respondent and against Claimant in the amount of \$255,596.

Respondent is declared to be the prevailing party. Claimant is to pay Respondent's legal fees and costs in the amount of: \$147,590.02.

1 The administrative fees of the American Arbitration
 2 Association (the Association) totaling \$12,900.00 and the
 3 compensation for the arbitrator totaling \$1,550.46 shall be
 4 borne by Claimant. Therefore Claimant shall reimburse
 5 Respondent the sum of \$9,475.23 (nine-thousand, four-hundred
 6 seventy three dollars and twenty-three cents) representing the
 7 portion of said fees in excess of the apportioned costs
 8 previously incurred by Respondent

9
 10
 11 The above sums are to be paid on or before thirty (30) days
 12 from the date of this Award. Post-judgment interest of 8% shall
 13 begin to accrue if payment is not made from the final date of
 14 this Award.

15 This Award is in full settlement of all claims and
 16 counterclaims submitted to this Arbitration. All claims and
 17 counterclaims not expressly granted herein are hereby denied.

18
 19  1-8-10
 20 Signed _____ Dated: _____

Award of Arbitrator—Reasoned Opinion

Received Time Jan. 8. 2:45PM