

## Federal Criminal Charges Against Unruly Airline Passengers

*Jol A. Silversmith*

The media often reports on “air rage” incidents which lead to an airline passenger being arrested because they have assaulted other passengers and/or airline crew, or were otherwise disruptive to an airline flight. But it is less common for the media to report on the final disposition of their cases – especially if a case was resolved by a plea bargain or other settlement without a trial. For air rage incidents reported in the media in 2012-14, this paper makes an effort to identify the final disposition of federal criminal charges brought against such passengers, based on the “special aircraft jurisdiction” (49 U.S.C. § 46501, et seq.) of the federal government over crimes committed aboard aircraft. (This paper does not include cases in which passengers instead were charged under foreign law, state law, or FAA administrative regulations, or in which passengers were arrested but released without charge.)

### **2014:**

- **Joseph Ferrarone** – Allegedly assaulted flight attendants on a Qatar Airways flight between Doha and Houston on December 1, 2014. See, e.g., <http://www.click2houston.com/news/passenger-on-houston-flight-indicted-for-alleged-threats/30320422>. Ferrarone was charged with violating 49 U.S.C. § 46504, which prohibits interference with flight crew. On October 23, 2015, he was sentenced to time served and three years of supervised release (no. S.D.Texas 14-CR-00636).
- **Vadym Pecherskyi** – Allegedly assaulted flight attendants on a Delta Air Lines flight between Atlanta and Denver on October 27, 2014. See, e.g., [http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci\\_26816348/feds-ukranian-man-arrested-at-dia-after-causing](http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_26816348/feds-ukranian-man-arrested-at-dia-after-causing). Pecherskyi initially was charged with violating 49 U.S.C. § 46504, which prohibits interference with flight crew, but the court on November 21, 2014 approved a plea agreement to a charge of abusive sexual contact pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 2244. On January 7, 2015, Pecherskyi was sentenced to 4 months in prison, with credit for time served, and a \$3,000 fine (no. D.Colorado 14-CR-00453).
- **Michael Tanouye** – Allegedly sexually assaulted another passenger on a Japan Airlines flight between Honolulu and Kansai on October 11, 2014; the flight returned to Honolulu. See, e.g., <http://khon2.com/2014/10/13/hilo-man-charged-after-alleged-rape-attempt-during-flight/>. Tanouye has been charged with violating 49 U.S.C. § 46504, which prohibits interference with flight crew, and 49 U.S.C. § 2241, aggravated sexual abuse (no. D.Hawaii 14-MJ-01133). The case is pending.
- **Edmond Alexandre** – Allegedly assaulted a flight attendant on an American Airlines flight between Miami and Paris on August 27, 2014; the flight was diverted to Boston. See, e.g., <https://abcnews.go.com/Travel/legroom-wars-plane-diverted-reclining-seat-fight/story?id=25168675>. Alexandre has been charged with violating 49 U.S.C. § 46504, which prohibits interference with flight crew. On March 27, 2015, Alexandre pleaded guilty and was sentenced to time served, a \$1,000 fine, and \$6,303 in restitution to the airline (no. D.Massachusetts 14-CR-10298).
- **Thami Drissi** – Allegedly sexually assaulted another passenger on a Royal Air Maroc flight between Casablanca and New York (JFK) on August 22, 2014. See, e.g., <http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/nyc-crime/plane-passenger-apologizes-nyc-court-woman-groped-article-1.2029296>. Drissi initially was charged with abusive sexual contact pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 2244 and simple assault pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 113. On October 2, 2014, the court approved a plea agreement to the section 2244 count only and on December 2, 2014 Drissi was sentenced to time served (no. E.D.N.Y. 14-CR-00473).
- **Mitsuaki Takahashi** – Allegedly sexually assaulted another passenger on an United Airlines flight between Tokyo and Houston on August 20, 2014. See, e.g., <http://www.chron.com/houston/article/Man-in-federal-custody-charged-with-sexual-5748428.php>. Takahashi initially was charged with abusive sexual contact (18 U.S.C. § 2244) but on December 8, 2014 he pled to a charge of simple assault pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 113 and was

sentenced to 180 days in prison, a \$5,000 fine, and 5 years of probation (no. S.D.Texas 14-CR-00471).

- **Eun Jong Lee** – Allegedly sexually assaulted another passenger on an United Airlines flight between Tokyo and Newark on August 10, 2014. See, e.g., <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2723133/Man-47-arrested-female-passenger-woke-groping-United-flight-Tokyo-Newark.html>. Lee has been charged with abusive sexual contact (18 U.S.C. § 2244) (no. D.N.J. 14-MJ-06726). The case is pending.
- **Conrad Hilton** – Allegedly assaulted flight attendants on a British Airways flight between London and Los Angeles on July 31, 2014. See, e.g., <http://www.cnn.com/2015/02/04/entertainment/conrad-hilton-assaulting-intimidating-flight-attendants-charge/>. Hilton initially was charged with violating 49 U.S.C. § 46504, which prohibits interference with flight crew, but the court on March 17, 2015 approved a plea agreement to a charge of simple assault pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 113. On June 16, 2015, Hilton was sentenced to three years probation and a \$5,000 fine (no. C.D.California 15-CR-00079).
- **Kevin Lee Mosele** – Allegedly assaulted flight attendants on a British Airways flight between London and Los Angeles on July 14, 2014. See, e.g., <http://www.fbi.gov/losangeles/press-releases/2014/disruptive-air-passenger-charged-with-interfering-with-flight-crew>. Mosele initially was charged with violating 49 U.S.C. § 46504, which prohibits interference with flight crew, but the court on September 29, 2014 approved a plea agreement to a charge of simple assault pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 113. On January 5, 2015, Mosele was sentenced to 3 years of probation (no. C.D.California 14-CR-00465).
- **Pratik Doshi** – Allegedly sexually assaulted another passenger on an American flight between Dallas-Fort Worth and New York (JFK) on June 16, 2014. See, e.g., <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2746348/Texas-man-groped-female-passenger-tried-sleep-aboard-airplane.html>. Doshi has been charged with abusive sexual contact (18 U.S.C. § 2244). The complaint was dismissed by the government on October 3, 2014 (no. E.D.N.Y. 14-MJ-00604).
- **Andrew Mangual** – Allegedly assaulted other passengers and flight attendants on a United flight between Houston and New York on May 31, 2014; the flight was diverted to Memphis. See, e.g., <http://wreg.com/2014/06/01/plane-lands-in-memphis-after-man-creates-threat-on-united-flight/>. Mangual was charged with violating 49 U.S.C. § 46504, which prohibits interference with flight crew. The court on October 21, 2014 approved a plea agreement; on December 19, 2014 Mangual was sentenced to time served and 3 years of supervised release (no. W.D.Tennessee 14-CR-20153).
- **Kenji Okamoto** – Allegedly assaulted flight attendants on a Delta flight between Osaka and Honolulu on May 17, 2014. See, e.g., <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2657647/Drunk-passenger-transpacific-flight-pleads-guilty-punching-flight-attendant-traveling-celebrate-honeymoon-new-wife.html>. Okamoto has been charged with violating 49 U.S.C. § 46504, which prohibits interference with flight crew. On June 13, 2014, the court accepted a plea agreement and on July 29, 2014 Okamoto was sentenced to three months in prison and a \$3000 fine (no. D.Hawaii 14-CR-00544).
- **Robert John Coppack** – Allegedly assaulted other passengers and flight attendants on a US Airways flight between Philadelphia and London on May 13, 2014; the flight returned to Philadelphia. See, e.g., [http://www.philly.com/philly/news/Unruly\\_passenger\\_prompts\\_flight\\_to\\_return\\_to\\_PHL.html](http://www.philly.com/philly/news/Unruly_passenger_prompts_flight_to_return_to_PHL.html). Coppack has been charged with violating 49 U.S.C. § 46504, which prohibits interference with flight crew. On September 18, 2014, the court accepted a plea agreement; on December 19, 2014 Coppack was sentenced to time served, 3 years of supervised release, and \$53,354.00 in restitution to the airline (no. E.D.Pennsylvania 14-CR-00428).
- **Vinay Pochampally** – Allegedly sexually assaulted another passenger and flight attendants on a British Airways flight between London and San Francisco on April 15, 2014. See, e.g., <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2612405/Male-passenger-groped-sleeping-womans->

[breast-FIVE-MINUTES-British-Airways-flight-London-San-Francisco.html](#). Pochampally has been charged with simple assault (18 U.S.C. § 113) (no. N.D.California 14-MJ-70549). The case is pending.

- **Joshua Carl Lee Suggs** – Allegedly was disruptive on a Southwest flight between Chicago Midway and Sacramento on April 14, 2014; the flight was diverted to Omaha, Nebraska. See, e.g., <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/chi-flight-from-chicago-diverted-due-to-disruptive-passenger-20140414,0,7014516.story>. Suggs was charged with violating 49 U.S.C. § 46504, which prohibits interference with flight crew. At a hearing on January 21, 2015, Suggs entered a guilty plea; on April 17, 2015 he was sentenced to time served, three years of supervised release, and \$4,400 in restitution to the airline (no. D.Nebraska 14-CR-00114).
- **Shahbaz Kahn** – Allegedly assaulted another passenger and flight attendants on a Turkish Airlines flight between Istanbul and New York (JFK) on April 13, 2014. See, e.g., <http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/nyc-crime/drunken-passenger-spits-fellow-fliers-assaults-flight-attendants-feds-article-1.1756984>. On January 8, 2015, Kahn pleaded guilty to simple assault (18 U.S.C. § 113). On June 29, 2015 he was sentenced to a \$1,000 fine and 1 year of probation (no. E.D.N.Y. 14-CR-00627).
- **Kennedy Runner** – Allegedly was disruptive a United flight between Rapid City and Denver on March 28, 2014; Runner was arrested before take-off. See, e.g., [http://rapidcityjournal.com/news/local/virginia-man-accused-of-threatening-to-kill-airline-passengers/article\\_7551d81e-c640-532d-a93b-8ea2f70b5a5e.html](http://rapidcityjournal.com/news/local/virginia-man-accused-of-threatening-to-kill-airline-passengers/article_7551d81e-c640-532d-a93b-8ea2f70b5a5e.html). Runner has been charged with violating 49 U.S.C. § 46504, which prohibits interference with flight crew. At a bench trial on October 31, 2014, Runner was found not guilty by reason of insanity (no. D.S.D. 14-CR-50033).
- **Hans Loudermilk** – Allegedly sexually assaulted another passenger on a Delta flight between Los Angeles and Salt Lake City on March 25, 2014. See, e.g., <http://fox13now.com/2014/03/29/calif-man-gropes-teen-during-flight-to-slc-officials-say/>. Loudermilk initially was charged with abusive sexual contact (18 U.S.C. § 2244), but the court on December 19, 2014 approved a plea agreement to a charge of simple assault pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 113; on March 6, 2015 he was sentenced to 36 months of probation and 100 hours of community service (no. D.Utah 14-CR-00157).
- **Jared McKay** – Allegedly was disruptive on a United flight between Chicago O'Hare and Portland, Oregon on March 10, 2014. See, e.g., [http://www.oregonlive.com/portland/index.ssf/2014/03/united\\_passenger\\_arrested\\_afte.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/portland/index.ssf/2014/03/united_passenger_arrested_afte.html). McKay initially was charged with violating 49 U.S.C. § 46504, which prohibits interference with flight crew, but the court on October 30, 2014 approved a plea agreement to a charge of simple assault pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 113; on February 11, 2015 he was sentenced to 24 months of probation and 50 hours of community service (no. D.Oregon 14-CR-00435).
- **Orion Koshinsky** – Allegedly was disruptive on a JetBlue flight between Boston and Fort Lauderdale on March 6, 2014; the flight was diverted to Jacksonville. See, e.g., <http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/jetblue-passenger-heading-rehab-emergency-landing-report-article-1.1718377>. Koshinsky initially was charged with violating 49 U.S.C. § 46504, which prohibits interference with flight crew, but on June 30, 2014 the court accepted a plea agreement for the reduced charge of simple assault (18 U.S.C. § 113). On September 30, 2014, Koshinsky was sentenced to 12 months of probation and \$17,349.66 in restitution to the airline (no. M.D.Florida 14-CR-00114).
- **Sheron Lamar Rogers** – Allegedly was disruptive on a Southwest flight between Seattle and Sacramento on March 4, 2014; the flight was diverted to Portland, Oregon. See, e.g., [http://www.oregonlive.com/portland/index.ssf/2014/03/southwest\\_airlines\\_passenger\\_w.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/portland/index.ssf/2014/03/southwest_airlines_passenger_w.html). Rogers has been charged with violating 49 U.S.C. § 46504, which prohibits interference with flight crew. On August 13, 2014 Rogers entered into a pretrial diversion agreement which would dismiss the charges if he completed its supervision conditions. The charges were dismissed on July 31, 2015 (no. D.Oregon 14-CR-00115).

- **Devender Singh** – Allegedly sexually assaulted another passenger on a United flight between Houston and Newark on March 2, 2014. See, e.g., <http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/man-accused-groping-woman-flight-newark-article-1.1709952>. Singh was charged with abusive sexual contact (18 U.S.C. § 2244) and entered a guilty plea on September 10, 2014; on October 24, 2014 he was sentenced to 8 months in prison, to be followed by 2 years of supervised release (no. D.N.J. 14-MJ-08038).
- **Edward Nafarette Nonga** – Allegedly was disruptive on a Philippine Airlines flight between Manila and Los Angeles on February 23, 2014. See, e.g., <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/passenger-charged-with-punching-flight-attendant/>. Nonga initially was charged with violating 49 U.S.C. § 46504, which prohibits interference with flight crew, but on April 8, 2014 the court accepted a plea agreement for the reduced charge of simple assault (18 U.S.C. § 113). On August 1, 2014, Nonga was sentenced to three years of probation and 180 hours of community service (no. C.D.California 14-CR-00179).
- **Nobuya Ochinerio** – Allegedly was disruptive on an ANA flight between Tokyo and New York (JFK) on February 10, 2014; the flight was diverted to Anchorage. See, e.g., <http://www.adn.com/2014/02/10/3317469/flight-from-japan-diverted-to.html>. Ochinerio has been charged with violating 49 U.S.C. § 46504, which prohibits interference with flight crew. On April 18, 2014, the court accepted a plea agreement and on July 7, 2014 Ochinerio was sentenced to 139 days in prison (with credit for time served) and 3 years of probation. An amended judgment on September 5, 2014 further imposed a restitution requirement of \$116,781.97, and ordered Ochinerio detained for further proceedings based on violations of his terms of release. On May 29, 2015, his supervised release was revoked (no. D.Alaska 14-CR-00014).

### **2013:**

- **Alicia Gonzalez** – Allegedly was disruptive on a JetBlue flight between New York (JFK) and San Juan on October 31, 2013. See, e.g., <http://www.fbi.gov/sanjuan/press-releases/2013/alicia-gonzalez-arrested-for-interfering-with-flight-crew-members-and-attendants>. Gonzalez has been charged with violating 49 U.S.C. § 46504, which prohibits interference with flight crew. On June 26, 2014, the court recommended that Gonzalez be placed in a pretrial diversion program (no. D.P.R. 13-CR-00860). The case is pending.
- **Michael Pascal** – Allegedly sexually assaulted another passenger on a Delta flight between Detroit and Salt Lake City on October 26, 2013. See, e.g., <http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/news/57744519-78/girl-pascal-seat-guilty.html.csp>. Pascal was charged with abusive sexual contact (18 U.S.C. § 2244) and was convicted by a jury on March 27, 2014. On August 1, 2014, Pascal was sentenced to 27 months in prison (no. D.Utah 13-CR-00763). Pascal appealed but the decision was affirmed on May 20, 2015 (10th Cir. no. 14-4091).
- **Gregory Meyer** – Allegedly was disruptive on a JetBlue flight between Burbank and New York (JFK) on August 30, 2013; the flight was diverted to Denver. See, e.g., [http://articles.burbankleader.com/2013-09-03/news/tn-blr-bob-hope-flight-diverted-due-to-disruptive-passenger-20130903\\_1\\_disruptive-passenger-jetblue-flight-burbank-bob-hope-airport](http://articles.burbankleader.com/2013-09-03/news/tn-blr-bob-hope-flight-diverted-due-to-disruptive-passenger-20130903_1_disruptive-passenger-jetblue-flight-burbank-bob-hope-airport). Meyer was charged with simple assault (18 U.S.C. § 113), but on November 14, 2013 entered into a deferred prosecution agreement. The agreement's conditions included a 12-hour drug and alcohol awareness class, 5 hours of community service, and a \$3024.30 payment to JetBlue for the cost of the diversion (no. D.Colo. 13-PO-07005).
- **Stephanie Heizmann Auerbach** – Allegedly was disruptive on a Delta flight between Detroit and Shanghai on August 18, 2013; the flight was diverted to Anchorage. See, e.g., <http://www.adn.com/2013/08/20/3034324/womans-in-flight-antics-land-her.html>. Auerbach was charged with violating 49 U.S.C. § 46504, which prohibits interference with flight crew. On December 20, 2013, the court approved a plea agreement; Auerbach was sentenced to five years probation, a \$5000 fine, and \$53,026 in restitution to Delta for the cost of the diversion (D.Alaska no. 13-CR-00096).

- **Jessica Stroble and Christopher Martin** – Allegedly engaged in sexual acts on an Allegiant flight between Medford, Oregon and Las Vegas on June 21, 2013. See, e.g., <http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/couple-oral-sex-plane-face-jail-time-article-1.1422914>. Stroble and Martin were charged with lewd acts under D.C. Code § 22-1112 (now § 22-1312, which is made applicable in-flight by 49 U.S.C. § 46506). On October 16, 2013, the court approved a plea agreement to the lesser charge of disorderly conduct (D.C. Code § 22-1321), and imposed a \$250 fine on each of them (no. D.Nevada 13-MJ-00588).
- **Carmen Lechin** – Allegedly was disruptive on a United flight between Bogota and Houston on June 6, 2013. See, e.g., <http://abc13.com/news/beauty-queen-accused-in-plane-disturbance-speaks-out-after-acquittal/1035588/>. Lechin was charged with violating 49 U.S.C. § 46504, which prohibits interference with flight crew. At trial, she was acquitted (no. S.D.Tex. 13-CR-00527).
- **Saurabh Agarwal** – Allegedly sexually assaulted another passenger on an American flight between Miami and Washington National on April 10, 2013. See, e.g., <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/local/wp/2013/05/09/in-flight-fondling-thats-a-federal-offense-sterling-man-learns/>. Agarwal initially was charged with abusive sexual contact (18 U.S.C. § 2244) but on August 30, 2013 the court approved a plea agreement for the reduced charge of simple assault (18 U.S.C. § 113). Agarwal was sentenced to three years probation, 50 hours of community service, and a \$4000 fine (no. E.D.Va. 13-CR-00210).
- **Mark Michael Bote** – Allegedly made a bomb threat on a Frontier flight between Knoxville and Denver on June 14, 2013. See, e.g., <http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/front-range/denver/affidavit-frontier-airlines-bomb-threat-suspect-mark-bote-acted-paranoid-fearful>. Bote was charged with violating 49 U.S.C. § 46504, which prohibits interference with flight crew, and 49 U.S.C. § 46507, which prohibits false information or threats concerning aircraft. On November 4, 2013, the court approved the government's motion to dismiss the charges, based on Bote's mental status (no. D.Colo. 13-CR-00259).
- **Alexander Michael Herrera** – Allegedly attempted to open an emergency exit on an Alaska Airlines flight between Anchorage and Portland, Oregon on May 27, 2013. See, e.g., <http://www.abc15.com/news/state/alexander-michael-herrera-who-disrupted-alaska-airlines-flight-says-hes-bipolar>. Herrera was charged with violating 49 U.S.C. § 46504, which prohibits interference with flight crew, and 18 U.S.C. 32 (attempted destruction of an aircraft). On December 9, 2013 the court approved a plea agreement for the charge of violating 49 U.S.C. § 46504 only; on June 3, 2014, Herrera was sentenced to three years of probation (no. D.Oregon 13-CR-00292).
- **Joe Rickey Hundley** – Allegedly assaulted another passenger on a Delta flight between Minneapolis and Atlanta on February 8, 2013. See, e.g., <http://www.abc15.com/news/national/joe-rickey-hundley-sentenced-to-8-months-for-slapping-baby-on-delta-flight>. Hundley was charged with simple assault (18 U.S.C. § 113) and pleaded guilty to the charge on October 2, 2013; on January 6, 2014 he was sentenced to 8 months in prison, to be followed by 12 months of supervision and 120 hours of community service, as well as \$105 in restitution to the victim (no. N.D.Georgia 13-CR-00082).

## 2012:

- **Stuart Ronald Clarke** – Allegedly engaged in a sexual act on a Delta flight between Minneapolis and Salt Lake City November 12, 2012. See, e.g., <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2511996/Stuart-Ronald-Clarke-exposed-privates-plane-CLEARED-indecent-exposure.html>. Clarke was charged with violating D.C. Code § 22-1312 (which is made applicable in-flight by 49 U.S.C. § 46506). A bench trial was held on September 19, 2013, and on November 21, 2013 the court ruled that Clarke was not guilty of the charge (no. D.Utah 13-CR-00382).
- **Anatoly Baranovich** – Allegedly was disruptive on a Delta flight between Boston and Salt Lake City on October 15, 2012. See, e.g., <http://www.foxnews.com/us/2012/10/16/man-trying-to-open-exit-door-after-delta-flight-from-boston-to-salt-lake-city/>. Baranovich was charged with violating 18 U.S.C. § 32 (damaging an aircraft), 49 U.S.C. § 46504 (interference with flight crew), 18 U.S.C. §

201 (bribery of public officials), and 18 U.S.C. § 111 (resisting arrest). On March 31, 2014, the court approved a plea agreement for the charge of violating 49 U.S.C. § 46504 only; on June 25, 2014, he was sentenced to time served, 24 months of supervised release, and \$57,144.26 in restitution to Delta (no. D.Utah 12-CR-00686).

- **Arrash Durrani** – Allegedly assaulted other passengers on an United flight between Chicago O’Hare and Orange County on September 25, 2012. See, e.g., <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/man-grabbing-women-on-chicago-to-calif-flight-tackled-by-fellow-passengers-arrested-report-says/>. Durrani was charged with violating 49 U.S.C. § 46504, which prohibits interference with flight crew. On May 23, 2013, the court approved a plea agreement; on January 15, 2014, Durrani was sentenced to 12 months and 1 day in prison, to be followed by 3 years of supervision (no. C.D.California 12-CR-00242).
- **Daniel Michael Drinan** – Allegedly engaged in sexual acts on a Southwest flight between Baltimore and Denver on September 8, 2012. See, e.g., <http://www.fbi.gov/denver/press-releases/2012/reno-man-arrested-for-lewd-indecent-or-obscene>. Drinan was charged with violating D.C. Code § 22-1312 (which is made applicable in-flight by 49 U.S.C. § 46506) On January 18, 2013, the court approved a plea agreement; Drinan’s sentence included two years of probation and a \$1000 fine (no. D.Colorado 12-MJ-01118).
- **Fafane Daniel** – Allegedly assaulted another passenger on a Southwest flight between Fort Lauderdale and Las Vegas on August 23, 2012; the flight was diverted to New Orleans. See, e.g., <http://www.fbi.gov/neworleans/press-releases/2012/individual-arrested-for-interference-with-a-flight-crew-and-assault>. Daniel was charged with violating 18 U.S.C. § 113. On March 26, 2013, the court approved a plea agreement; on July 15, 2013, Daniel was sentenced to six months probation as well as to pay \$250 in restitution to the victim (no. E.D.Louisiana 12-CR-00286).
- **Bawer Aksal** – Allegedly sexually assaulted another passenger on an United flight between Phoenix and Newark on August 21, 2012. See, e.g., <http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/man-convicted-sexually-assaulting-sleeping-airline-passenger-article-1.1403782>. Askal was charged with violating 18 U.S.C. § 2242 (sexual abuse) and 18 U.S.C. § 2244 (abusive sexual contact). After a five-day trial, Aksal was convicted by a jury on July 19, 2013; on January 29, 2014, Aksal was sentenced to 97 months in prison, to be followed by 3 years of supervision, as well as to pay \$1142.27 in restitution to the victim (no. D.N.J. 12-CR-00577). An appeal is pending (3rd Cir. no. 14-1418).
- **Marcus Covington** – Allegedly was disruptive and sexually assaulted another passenger on a JetBlue flight between New York (JFK) and Los Angeles on August 19, 2012; the flight was diverted to Denver. See, e.g., [http://www.denverpost.com/ci\\_22540851/judge-sentences-jetblue-passenger-who-groped-pregnant-woman](http://www.denverpost.com/ci_22540851/judge-sentences-jetblue-passenger-who-groped-pregnant-woman). Covington was charged with violating 49 U.S.C. § 46504, which prohibits interference with flight crew, and abusive sexual contact (18 U.S.C. § 2244). On November 28, 2012, the court approved a plea agreement for the charge of violating 49 U.S.C. § 46504 only; on February 20, 2013 Covington was sentenced to time served, with additional conditions including two years of supervision and \$4170.95 in restitution to JetBlue (no. D.Colorado 12-CR-00370).
- **Kyong Cha Lee** – Allegedly assaulted a flight attendant on an Alaska Airlines flight between Honolulu and Anchorage on August 19, 2012. See, e.g., <http://www.alaskadispatch.com/article/alaska-airlines-passenger-indicted-assault-against-flight-attendant>. Lee was charged with violating 18 U.S.C. § 113. On November 14, 2012, the court approved a plea agreement; Lee’s sentence included three years of probation and 8 hours per month of community service while on probation (no. D.Alaska 12-CR-00073).
- **Luavulu Seuva’ai** – Allegedly sexually assaulted another passenger on a Hawaiian Airlines flight between Manila and Honolulu on August 17, 2012. See, e.g., <http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/19308485/passenger-arrested-for-abusive-sexual-contact-on-hawaiian-flight>. Seuva’ai initially was charged with abusive sexual contact (18 U.S.C. § 2244) but on August 29, 2012 the court approved a plea agreement to a charge of simple

assault (18 U.S.C. § 113). On November 24, 2012, Seuva'ai was sentenced to time served (5 days in prison) and 2 years of supervision (no. D.Hawaii 12-CR-0900).

- **Othinel Polanco** – Allegedly sexually assaulted another passenger on a JetBlue flight between Santo Domingo and New York (JFK) on July 9, 2012. See, e.g., <http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/queens-man-charged-groping-sleeping-18-year-old-jetblue-flight-article-1.1125212>. Polanco initially was charged with abusive sexual contact (18 U.S.C. § 2244), but the court subsequently approved a plea agreement to a charge of simple assault (18 U.S.C. § 113). On March 27, 2013, Polanco was sentenced to 60 days in prison and 1 year of supervision (no. E.D.N.Y. 12-CR-00703).
- **Janarol Ali Dickens** – Allegedly sexually assaulted another passenger on a Delta flight between Detroit and Amsterdam on June 10, 2012. See, e.g., <http://www.freep.com/article/20140730/NEWS05/307300195/Feds-Man-fondled-sleeping-passenger-Detroit-Amsterdam-flight>. Dickens was charged upon his return to the United States in 2014 with abusive sexual contact pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 2244, and the court subsequently approved a plea agreement on November 5, 2014. On March 18, 2015, he was sentenced to 12 months in prison (no. E.D.Mich. 14-CR-20556).
- **Ryan Snider** – Allegedly was disruptive on an American flight between Montego Bay and Miami on May 25, 2012. See, e.g., [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/05/25/american-airlines-passeng\\_n\\_1545788.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/05/25/american-airlines-passeng_n_1545788.html). Snider initially was charged with violating 49 U.S.C. § 46504, which prohibits interference with flight crew, but on July 20, 2012 the court approved a plea agreement to a charge of simple assault (18 U.S.C. § 113). On August 2, 2012, Snider was sentenced to time served and 6 months of supervision (no. S.D.Florida 12-CR-20456).
- **Peggy Albedhady-Sanchez** – Allegedly was disruptive on an US Airways flight between Charlotte and Fort Myers on March 27, 2012. See, e.g., <http://www.wcnc.com/news/local/Woman-restrained-on-flight-from-Charlotte-to-Ft-Myers-144479475.html>. Albedhady was charged with violating 49 U.S.C. § 46504, which prohibits interference with flight crew (no. M.D.Florida 12-CR-00048). The case subsequently was transferred to the federal district court in New Jersey, where she entered a guilty plea on December 10, 2014; on April 14, 2015 she was sentenced to three years of probation (no. D.N.J. 13-CR-00171).
- **Yazeed Mohammed Abunayyan** – Allegedly was disruptive on a Continental flight between Portland, Oregon and Houston on February 21, 2012; the flight returned to Portland. See, e.g., <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2105029/Continental-Airlines-passengers-hold-smoking-Saudi-Yazeed-Mohammed-Abunayyan-shouting-Allah-great.html>. Abunayyan was charged with violating charged with violating 49 U.S.C. § 46504, which prohibits interference with flight crew. On April 30, 2012, the court approved a plea agreement; on May 4, 2012, Abunayyan was sentenced to time served (no. D.Oregon 12-CR-00084).
- **Manolin Villaverde** – Allegedly was disruptive on a Continental flight between Houston and Ontario, California on January 24, 2012; the flight was diverted to San Antonio. See, e.g., <http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2012/07/13/florida-man-gets-5-years-probation-for-disrupting-ontario-bound-flight/>. Villaverde was charged with violating 49 U.S.C. § 46504, which prohibits interference with flight crew. On May 3, 2012, the court approved a plea agreement; on July 23, 2012, Villaverde was sentenced to 5 years of probation (no. W.D.Texas 2012-CR-00067).
- **Sohei Yamanouchi** – Allegedly assaulted a flight attendant on a Delta flight between Tokyo and Honolulu on January 9, 2012. See, e.g., <http://travel.usatoday.com/flights/story/2012-01-10/Unruly-Delta-passenger-from-Japan-arrested-in-Hawaii/52478930/1>. Yamanouchi was charged with violating 18 U.S.C. § 113 (simple assault). On January 25, 2012, Yamanouchi was sentenced to time served (1 day in prison) and a \$2500 fine (no. D.Hawaii 12-CR-00044).
- **Allen Chaves** – Allegedly assaulted another passenger on a Delta flight between Minneapolis and Los Angeles on January 4, 2012. See, e.g., <http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/general-news/20120106/drunken-passenger-arrested-at-lax-for-allegedly-hitting-crew-member>. Chaves was charged with violating 18 U.S.C. § 113 (simple assault). On April 30, 2012, the court

approved a plea agreement; on June 26, 2012, Chaves was sentenced to 2 years probation and a \$500 fine (no. C.D. California 12-CR-00139).