Brannock & Humphries provided trial support to the premier aviation law firm of Spohrer Dodd in McMahon v. Presidential Airways, Inc., a wrongful death suit filed in the Middle District of Florida. Presidential is an affiliate of Blackwater USA.

The plaintiffs alleged that Presidential's negligence wrongfully caused the death of their decedents, three United States service members deployed in the conflict in Afghanistan. The plaintiffs' claims were recently highlighted in a story titled "Blackwater 61" on 60 Minutes.

Brannock & Humphries, through Of Counsel Tracy S. Carlin, worked with Galen Bauer and Robert Spohrer of Spohrer Dodd to defend the various sovereign immunity claims Presidential asserted in the lawsuit. For example, Presidential argued that it was immune from suit under *Feres v. United States*, 340 U.S. 135 (1950), because it was an agent of the United States military, and because it was engaged in a symbiotic relationship with the military. In addition, Presidential argued that the law of Afghanistan should apply because the airplane crash at issue occurred in Afghanistan, and that Afghanistan law did not impose liability upon an employer for its employee's actions or omissions, even if those actions or omissions occurred in the scope of employment. Brannock & Humphries
worked in concert with Spohrer Dodd to defeat each and every one of Presidential's arguments in the trial court. Also, as lead appellate counsel, Ms. Carlin defeated Presidential's Feres-related claim in the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. In the end, through the efforts of both Brannock & Humphries and Spohrer Dodd, the parties reached a confidential settlement, which provides compensation to the families of those lost in this tragic accident.