

Bert Botta, Captain
Aviation Expert
TWA/NetJets (Ret)
Petaluma, CA, 94954
415-320-9811
<https://www.bertbotta.com>
bert@bertbotta.com
[Botta Linkedin](#)
[BottaJurisProAvExpert](#)

**AVIATION EXPERT
CONSULTANT and AVIATION BACKGROUND
(Current as of December 20, 2022)**

Recent Expert Experience & Cases Opined On:

- JurisPro Expert Witness Directory 12/22
- SEAK Expert Witness Directory, 12/21
- SEAK Expert Witness Training, 2/22
- Pilot competency, pilot incapacity, medical issues, 2/21
 - Wrongful death case, 7/22
- Wrong-surface event, current 12/22

Captain Botta's specialty is Assessing and Opining on the Emotional and Psychological Fitness of individuals that may have led to an aircraft accident or incident

- He provides **in-depth assessments** and opinions on individuals in cases that may have
- Involved **pilot error, inter-personal conflict**, or other "human factor" related issues
- Based on his **10 Year Experience as a former Licensed Professional Counselor** and
- **6 Years as a Certified Leader** of a Powerful Men's Personal Leadership Training

Bert brings 35 years of Aviation Expertise as:

- A Major Airline Captain with
- International, Multi-Cultural experience
- Designated FAA Line Check Captain
- Pilot Instructor
- Captain for NetJets, The World's Largest Corporate Jet Charter Company
- A Licensed Professional Counselor with a former private practice
- Bert Combines Aviation Expert skills with
- Psychological and Emotional tools
- That Provide Valuable Insights into the Makeup of Aviation Professionals

Captain Botta has:

- Expert Aviation Witness Opining and Deposition experience
- 16000 hours flying experience as a TWA Pilot/Captain/Instructor

- **4000 hours as a NetJets Gulfstream Captain**
- **Licensed Professional Counselor** (MO, FL, NM)
- **Professional Standards Committee Chairman** TWA/Airline Pilots Assoc (ALPA)
- **Professional Standards Committee Chairman** (NetJets)
- **Designated FAA Line Check Airman** and Instructor Pilot
- **Current Certified CFI** (FAA Certified Flight Instructor)
- **Aviation Industry Consultant**
- **Author, Aviation Writer, Podcaster**

Captain Botta's 35 years as a Major Airline Pilot/Captain and Corporate Jet Captain, and Certified FAA Check Airman included a part-time private practice as a Licensed Professional Counselor.

During that time he was chosen as the Professional Standards Committee Chairman for the Trans World Airlines/Airline Pilots Association and for the NetJets pilot group.

This combination as an Aviation Expert with the Psychological and Emotional tools that he was able to use in the "personal" side of aviation has been extremely valuable in understanding the unique characteristics and personalities of pilots and flight crew members, especially when it involves an incident or accident investigation.

During his years as an Aviation and Psychological Professional, he has acquired valuable Insights into the Psychological and Emotional Fitness of Aviation Professionals in the Medical, Flight Fitness, Wrongful Death, and Wrong Surface Event cases that he was hired to investigate and opine on as an Aviation Expert.

"Bert, I am pleased to report that we resolved the case yesterday with a positive (yet confidential result).

The information you provided for the case allowed my clients and me to show the defense that we were worthy adversaries and knew what should have been done and what hadn't been done in training and the flight.

Without your expertise, we wouldn't have been so successful.
Again, I want to thank you for your time on this case.

I've not handled an aviation case before, and you (and the aerobatic expert you brought onto the case) were both great!"

Thanks, Katie



Bert Botta
Captain, TWA/NetJets (Ret)
bert@bertbotta.com
415-320-9811

TRANS WORLD AIRLINES

TWA CAPTAIN: 1966-1992: 16000 hours flying experience, Captain, First Officer, Flight Engineer. A/C types: DC3, B707, L1011, MD80/DC9, CE 525, CE 650, G200.

DESIGNATED FAA LINE CHECK AIRMAN TWA: 1989 – 1992, MD80/DC9

SAUDI ARABIA SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT, CAD License # TA325, 1976-1977

NOTE: As a Designated FAA Line Check Airman Bert was concurrently a Missouri Licensed Professional Counselor with a private practice in St. Louis, MO

TWA AIRLINE PILOTS ASSOCIATION (ALPA)

TWA/ALPA PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN: 1986-1989. (Professional Standards is a committee that oversees and intervenes in pilot behavior issues that impact safety of flight, i.e. behavioral problems, alcoholism, drugs, etc.)

TWA/ALPA CHAIRMAN, FAMILY AWARENESS COMMITTEE: January 1990-November, 1992

TWA/ALPA SECOND OFFICER REPRESENTATIVE: 1973-1976

NETJETS

NetJets GULFSTREAM AND CITATION JET CAPTAIN: 4/2000 – 12/2009, 4000 hours flying experience. Transported high net-worth individuals, i.e., heads of state, professional athletes, celebrities, corporate executives, etc.

NetJets PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN: Teamsters Union, 2001-2003. Bert developed the NetJets Professional Standards Committee and was the first chairman of the committee.

FAA CERTIFIED GOLD SEAL FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR (current - 2024)

CIVIL AIR PATROL, Instructor pilot, Taos, NM squadron: 1996-2000

SOLAIRUS AERO: Chief pilot, 2003

AIRCRAFT SIMULATOR INSTRUCTOR: Aircraft Simulator Training, 2016-2018.

PILOT, Kelleher Lumber Company, 2018-2020.

PILOT INTERVIEW PREP SPECIALIST Aviation Consulting Services. 2000 – 2001. Interviewed, coached and prepared pilot applicants for major air carrier interviews and testing.

PROGRAM SPEAKER

- 1989 and 1993: Speaker, Fifth and Seventh International Symposium on Aviation Psychology, Ohio State University.
- 1987: Speaker, ALPA Professional Standards Committee Meeting, “A Counseling Methodology to Solving Pilot Behavior Problems”

WRITER/AUTHOR Articles published

- Airline Pilot magazine, 1989-1992
- Aviation International News, (AIN online) 2001-2003
- Air Inc and other pilot career prep magazines
- Newspaper columnist, St. Louis Suburban Journal, 1992-1996
- Columnist, Sedona Times, Sedona, AZ, 1992-1994

AVIATION SOCIAL MEDIA WRITER/COPYWRITER

- KaiserAir FBO, Oakland, CA
- Private Jet Pilot, West Palm Beach, FL
- Solairus Aero, Petaluma, CA
- Scanlon Aviation, Novato, CA

EDUCATION MA, Counseling Psychology, 1981-1984, John F. Kennedy University, Orinda, California, BA, Social Sciences, San Francisco State University, 1961-1964, AA, Liberal Arts, San Francisco City College, 1959-1961.

LICENSED PSYCHOTHERAPIST & GROUP LEADER

- 1989-1996. Licensed in Missouri, New Mexico and Florida
- 1993-1996: Private Practice, St. Louis, MO
- 1985-1988: Post Graduate Studies, Advanced Human Studies Institute, FL

LEADERSHIP

- Workshop, Seminar and Men's Group Leader: 1988-1996, St. Louis, MO
- Certified Leader, Men's Personal Leadership Training, ManKind Project, 1992-1998
- Developed and led men's personal and leadership training in St. Louis, MO, Taos, NM, San Francisco, CA, Marin County, CA and Sonoma County, CA: 1993-Present
- Staff Trainer, Men's Awareness Training, Milwaukee, WI, 1992-1998
- MPAA (Minority Pilots Association and Academy) Bert helped develop minority kids interest in and qualification for aviation in Taos, NM, 1996-2000

PUBLICATIONS

USA Today

- January 10, 2008: "Fatigue and Understaffing: The Threat to Runway Safety."

Aviation International News

- November, 2001: "Soul Searching: Thoughts on Life and a Flying Career"
- March, 2002: "Can Pilots Find Inner Peace in Turbulent Times?"
- May, 2002: "A Fractional Pilot's Life Comes Full Circle"
- September, 2002: "A Pilot's Emotional and Spiritual Survival Guide"
- August, 2019: Speaker: "Grappling with Grief: Tales from the Flight Deck Podcast"

InFlightUSA

- May, 2015: An Old, Bold Pilot Discovers the Meaning of Life
 - July, 2015: Mentor in a Poopy Suit
 - December, 2016: Airline Pilot Wannabe
 - January, 2017: A Look Inside the Life of Free Airline Travel
- (More articles upon request)

BizAvJetsUSA

- Articles published (available upon request)

Airline Pilot Careers

- July, 2001: Flying Beyond Retirement: Fractional operators hire pilots after age 60

Airline Pilot Magazine

- March, 1989: Air Safety and Mental Health

Fifth International Aviation Psychology Symposium

- April 17-20, 1989: Sanity, Common Sense and Air Safety: Keys to Understanding Pilot Error

The Catalyst: (TWA Master Executive Council)

- Professional Standards Report
- Tips to Eliminate Merger Stress

The Lancet

- May, 1990: Power Trip
- August, 1990: Family Awareness Seminar helps pilots avoid heart disease

Hub City News

- Issue 19: Captain Upgrading
- Lifestyles

Flight Facts

- September, 1979: Sinking Spells

TWA Lancet

- August, 1990: “The Heart of the Matter”

Marin Independent Journal

- November 13, 2011: A Pilot’s New Direction

REFERENCES: Upon request

HEALTH: Excellent, FAA 1st Class physical 1/20