

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the DePaul Journal of Sports Law and Contemporary Problems, a unique name for a very unique legal journal. Traditionally, legal journals use sports as a backdrop to discuss important legal issues. And while Sports Law can and does incorporate several areas of the law, its importance and impact upon our economy and culture has grown tremendously over the years.

Everyday, sports enter our homes through television, radio, and print. The obvious consequence of sports' pervasiveness is an industry that generates billions of dollars worldwide. Difficult to understand is the impact sports has on culture, community, and politics. Today, sports professionals are more than athletes and entertainers, they are cultural icons. They represent the fight against race and gender discrimination, the fight for equal rights for disabled persons, and even, the fight for democratic freedom. Sports also provide more than entertainment; sports have a profound impact on local economies, community relations and political decisions.

Understanding Sports Law involves more than analyzing antitrust issues, labor law, and intellectual property. Understanding Sports Law means investigating and exploiting the intersection between law and sport, while always considering the contemporary problems that underline the various legal issues. The DePaul Journal of Sports Law and Contemporary Problems was created to help fans, students and legal professionals "understand" Sports Law. The Journal analyzes legal issues involving sports, and addresses the unique problems and opportunities sports present in our society.

The Journal publishes on-line and on CD-Rom. Publishing on the Internet allows us to impact large audiences quickly and to update publications weekly. CD-Rom publications offer our audience an innovative alternative to traditional paper media. Both forms of publication offer traditional law journal articles written by scholars, professionals and students. Our website contains short comments and opinions written by our Editors and staff offering their perspectives and ideas on various sports issues. Copies of transcripts from our Sports Law Symposiums, along with membership information may also be obtained from our website at www.law.depaul.edu/sportslaw.

The DePaul Journal of Sports Law and Contemporary Problems is DePaul Law School's first on-line law journal and the City of Chicago's first law journal dedicated exclusively to Sports Law. We believe the content of our publications combined with the format in which they are presented will lead to greater awareness of the legal issues and contemporary problems that impact the sports industry.

Therefore, on behalf of the Editorial Board, writing staff and faculty, welcome to the DePaul University Journal of Sports Law and Contemporary Problems! We encourage you to visit our website for current announcements and information. In the meantime we hope you enjoy our first issue.

Erik Varela
Inaugural Editor-in-Chief
DePaul University
Journal of Sports Law &
Contemporary Problem