

Sports Law

Sports Law

Cases and Materials

TENTH EDITION

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Preface

It has been over 34 years since the publication of the inaugural edition of *Sports Law: Cases and Materials*. Its publication coincided with the emergence of sports law as a discrete topic for legal study. The book, the first of its kind, filled a void. It was quickly and widely adopted for classroom use. Competitive books followed soon thereafter.

In this, the tenth edition, the overarching organization of the original book holds firm. The dichotomy between so-called “amateur” sports and professional sports appears now to have withstood the legal assault on amateurism. Amateurism — marked most significantly by the peculiarly American phenomenon of big-time college sports played by “student-athletes” on athletic scholarships — will likely be redefined to allow for increased freedom and enhanced emoluments for players. But the big-time intercollegiate sports juggernaut is firmly ensconced in the culture. The College Football Playoff and March Madness are here to stay. So the tenth edition, like the first edition, remains in three parts: Amateur Sports, Professional Sports and Issues Common to Both.

From the beginning, the authors committed to a skills-oriented, problem-based approach as the optimal way to study sports law. While the book can be used conventionally — for those who choose to focus on cases, notes, and questions — skills-based problems are featured throughout. Capstone problems and case simulations are designed to facilitate both the review of doctrine and the energy of experiential learning.

Collectively, the authors have more than 100 years of experience teaching sports law. We are unabated in our love for the topic. Surprisingly, the course works as a bar review course — covering a wide variety of substantive areas in the beloved and memorable context of sport.

Sports law is alive. Things happen fast in sports and sports law. Legal issues once on the horizon arise quickly. Our book is comprehensive enough to allow you to select topics that are of most interest to you and your students. It invites you to revisit your syllabus to confront current issues as they arise. The problem-based approach is helpful in this regard. It makes for a great classroom experience.

We welcome to this tenth edition a new co-author, Professor Rich Karcher. We are of course grateful to those of you who have chosen to use our book, and we welcome new adopters. Feel free to contact any of us with questions, comments, or suggestions.

March 2024

Ray Yasser

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Upon the publication of the tenth edition, Professor McCurdy wishes to acknowledge and express gratitude and warmth for the continual support provided by his spouse, Mary Ann, and son, Michael, who are joined by granddaughter, Ashleigh, a young aspiring writer.

Dean Goplerud would like to thank his wife Mariette Brodeur for her enduring patience and understanding of my passion for sports and the law.

Professor Weston dedicates this to the loving memory of her son, Cedric Haloran. In everything I do, I think of you.

Professor Karcher would like to thank the original authors for including him as a new co-author on the casebook he used for the first sports law course he taught nineteen years ago.

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