

# **From the President of the Society for the Study of Legal Aspects of Sport and Physical Activity**

***John Merriman  
Valdosta State College***

Taking advantage of this opportunity, I wish to welcome the new members of SSLASPA and share what is, I believe, the current consensus of our Society's philosophy. At the same time, perhaps the information will be useful to others who are debating whether or not they also should join the Society, attend our annual conference, and otherwise be active in the Society. Social psychologists have proved a shared goal, purpose, or commitment (philosophy, if you will) provides any group the cohesion necessary to the success of the group's effort. A review of Article II of the Society's Constitution and By-laws reveals a shared philosophy and commitment.

## **ARTICLE II: PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES**

**Section 1.** The purpose of SSLASPA shall be to further the study of and dissemination of information regarding legal aspects of sport and physical activity. The Society addresses those legal aspects of all types and levels of public and private sector enterprises dealing with sport and physical activity.

**Section 2.** The objectives of SSLASPA shall be to serve the needs of the membership by:

- a. providing a medium for academic development and growth through professional interchange in the area referred to as sport law;
- b. providing service functions for its members through the provision for presentation and publication of research;
- c. assisting in the development of appropriate curriculum;
- d. providing a list of resource persons to any individual, organization, or institution; and
- e. cooperating closely with allied national and international organizations in areas such as athletics, education, exercise, law, medicine, recreation, and sport.

From the above excerpt we can conclude that the Society is open to lawyers and non-lawyers, to educators and non-educators, and to those who, in one way or another, produce sports and those who do not. While this design provides each segment of the membership with opportunity, it also presents the members having selective interests with the obligation to propose and/or provide ways of meeting their special needs. In other words, members are expected to be pro-active as well

as co-active.

As should be expected of any learned society, those of either gender and of any race will be fully and equally accepted in the Society. Additionally, representatives will not be excluded on the basis of nationality, but rather cross-cultural interactions are encouraged.

Within the limits of time and space, members will be given the opportunity to share their expertise through presentation of prepared papers and publication of articles in the *Journal of Legal Aspects of Sport*. Members will also have the opportunity to expand their professional knowledge through attendance at the annual conference and reading the Society's journal.

The Society provides a rare opportunity for lawyers, educators, and others involved in sport to assist one another in understanding the legal aspects of sport from each group's unique position. Such open and free exchange should enhance the professional ability of all and thereby ensure the success of the Society in meeting the needs of all members. However, that success is predicated upon the basis that all members will contribute to the process.

## **From the President-Elect of the Society for the Study of Legal Aspects of Sport and Physical Activity**

***Linda A. Sharp  
Indiana University***

Nothing could be finer than to be in Jekyll Island in the spring! Well, perhaps I have my song titles confused but the message is accurate — this year's Sport, Physical Education, Recreation, and Law Conference which will be held at the Villas-by-the-Sea resort hotel and conference center in Jekyll Island, Georgia on March 12, 13, and 14, 1992 will be outstanding.

Professor Glenn M. Wong, a teacher and practitioner nationally recognized for his work in sport law, will be the featured conference speaker. Professor Wong will provide an overview of current issues in sport law on March 12 and will serve as the keynote speaker at the banquet on the evening of March 13. Other highlights of the conference include presentations by Betty van der Smissen, John Drowatzky, and Lori Miller regarding the legal aspects of personnel matters. Also, a moot court argument will be presented by Elyzabeth Holford and Anne Manley dealing with prayer at public school events. A copy of the complete schedule is found elsewhere in this issue of *JLAS*.

In addition to the fine theoretical content of the conference, some recreational opportunities have been added. The afternoon of March 12 has been left open to enjoy golf, a tour of the historic homes, or cycling on the island. That evening a sunset boat cruise will be available for conference registrants.

Please plan to join us in March. Engage your mind and refresh your spirit at Jekyll Island!