

A New Beginning

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The *Journal of Legal Aspects of Sport* began in the fall of 1991 with the publication of the proceedings of the Fourth Annual Sport, Physical Education, Recreation and Law Conference. As the official *Journal* of the Society for the Study of the Legal Aspects of Sport and Physical Activity, the *Journal* has always endeavored to present the legal issues affecting sport, physical education, and recreation in a scholarly and disciplined manner.

The *Journal* is unique because it is basically a peer reviewed legal *Journal*, a concept foreign to normal Law Reviews and Law Journals published at American law schools. For this reason, the *Journal of Legal Aspects of Sport* has a special place in the scholarly world. It presents legal issues affecting sport, physical education, and recreation from those who are not merely in law schools or the “traditional” legal world. Instead, it draws on the expertise and experience from the many members of SSLASPA and others who study the legal aspects of sport from a different and decidedly scholarly perspective.

The *Journal of Legal Aspects of Sport* publishes the highest quality scholarly work from any scholars, lawyers, professors, legal professionals, and sports management and sports law students. The *Journal* is open to practical perspectives and submissions from non-academics, because it is the scholarly quality of any submission that will be evaluated. In order for the *Journal of Legal Aspects of Sport* to retain its place as a top quality legal journal it must continue to present the highest quality scholarly work.

As part of this effort we will also attempt to make the *Journal* part of the normal legal discourse in sports. This will mean bringing the *Journal* to the many legal publishers, databases, and research systems, both online and in print, in order to increase its profile among the legal community. Regardless, the quality of this publication will not be sacrificed in an effort to increase its profile and subscription base.

As I begin with Volume 11 as the new Editor of the *Journal*, I cannot do so without thanking the many who have lent support to me and gone before me in establishing the *Journal* as a preeminent scholarly publication. Thanks to Gary Gray for his work in the initial stages of making the *Journal* into a reality. Thanks to Tom Sawyer and Michael Hypes for

their work before me in developing the profile and prestige of the *Journal* and in helping me with the transition to the position of Editor. Special thanks to the members of the Editorial Board listed in this issue who have been so ready to serve and so supportive of me in this new endeavor. And very special thanks to Rod Caughron, for his assistance and support in putting this first issue together, and to John Wolohan for his prodding and support in convincing me to take this position.

The *Journal of Legal Aspects of Sport* is primarily a publication of the Society for the Study of the Legal Aspects of Sport and Physical Activity; yet, it can be and will be so much more. The *Journal* can become a leader in the academic world, because, as a peer reviewed legal journal it can present perspectives of legal issues affecting sports, recreation and physical education, which can be found nowhere else. It is the *Journal's* flexibility and commitment to quality that will remain its greatest strength and allow it to take its rightful place in the academic and legal community alongside the seemingly more established publications like the *Marquette Sports Law Review*, *Sports Lawyers Journal* and the *Seton Hall Journal of Sports Law*. While these publications are restricted to publishing only articles in "legal style" our only restriction is in publishing the highest quality scholarly product each issue.

The *Journal* will continue to rely on the many scholars in the legal, sports management, physical education and other disciplines to supply it with the high quality and novel scholarly work. It is my promise that in my tenure as Editor of the *Journal of Legal Aspects of Sport* I will build on the foundation that has been laid before me, and continue to produce the highest quality scholarly journal that can be produced. With the assistance of an expert Editorial Board and the many members of SSLASPA my task is more a privilege than a burden. This is not so much a new beginning as the continuation of a tradition, and reassertion of the *Journal of Legal Aspects of Sport's* commitment to publishing the highest quality scholarly work and academic discourse now and in the future.