

# Another New Beginning<sup>1</sup>

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*Editor, Journal of Legal Aspects of Sport (2000-2011)*

In 2000, Professor John Wolohan, at that time the president of the Society for the Study of the Legal Aspects of Sport and Physical Activity (now the Sport and Recreation Law Association), asked me if I would serve as the editor of the *Journal of Legal Aspects of Sport* (JLAS). I believe John asked me based on my work with the *Marquette Sports Law Review* (formerly the *Marquette Sports Law Journal*) and the *Journal of Sport & Social Issues* (JSSI). I was hesitant at first. In the law school world where I have worked for my entire professional career there are few peer reviewed journals, and beyond my experience with JSSI, I was not very familiar with APA writing. I decided to take the position because John convinced me that I could start from scratch so to speak, my only charge was to make sure that the *Journal* continued to develop into a top level academic journal, in fact my focus was to make it the preeminent peer reviewed journal devoted to sport, physical activity, recreation and the law.

The first issue that I edited was Volume 11, Number 1, the winter 2001 issue of the *Journal*. In that issue I put forth the focus that I have had from the beginning:

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. . .<sup>2</sup>

Over the past twelve years that focus has never changed. As I end my term as JLAS Editor, I hope that the membership is proud of the work that I and many others have done.

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1. Referring to my introductory essay in the first issue of the *Journal of Legal Aspects of Sport* that I edited, see Paul Anderson, *A New Beginning*, 11 J. LEGAL ASPECTS OF SPORT 97 (2001), and my introductory essay in the first issue of the *SRLA Newsletter* that I edited, see Paul Anderson, *A New Beginning: Part 2*, 11 SRLA NEWSLETTER 1 (2004).

2. Anderson, *A New Beginning*, *supra* note 1, at 98.

As I finished Volume 21, Number 1, I came to realize that I have edited twenty four issues of this publication. This seems like a lot of issues, but while I have worked as Editor, I have relied on the expertise of many individuals who have served as members of what was originally known as the Editorial Board and has now become the Article Review Board. I have thanked all of these individuals in past issues, and thank the following current members - Robin Ammon, Jr., Cathryn L. Claussen, Dan Connaughton, Mark Conrad, Adam Epstein, Susan Brown Foster, Gil Fried, John Grady, Stephen McKelvey, John McMillen, John J. Miller, William Miller, Merry Moiseichik, Anita Moorman, Rebecca Mowrey, Barbara Osborne, Richard Southall, John Spengler, John Wendt, and Sarah Young - for their continued tireless efforts to make sure that the articles published in this *Journal* are of the highest quality. At times my job was the easy one, although I have always been the one in contact with authors I have not made the publication decisions. Instead, our reviewers have taken on that difficult role and consistently provided useful comments to our authors.

My commitment has always been to work tirelessly for authors who submit articles to the *Journal*. This includes many who were accepted, those who were rejected, and many more I attempted to work with in order to get their articles into a publishable condition. At times this has been a struggle as the amount of articles submitted to JLAS has dwindled over the years as it has with many sports law periodicals across the country. This started to happen in 2002. As a result, in 2004 we cut production from three to two issues per year. For this current issue I did not have any accepted articles until March of 2011 as so few articles were submitted between August of 2010 until February of 2011. Regardless, my commitment has always been to treat those who submit articles fairly and to deal with them in an efficient and timely manner. While some articles have been accepted outright, more have gone through numerous edits and revisions - dozens at times - over months and years before I and the author have been comfortable with what has been produced.

I am proud of the quality of JLAS over my time as editor, but I take little credit for this quality. The credit goes to those members of the various versions of the editorial board who have served as gatekeepers for this publication, and to the many authors who have written the high quality scholarship that has been published in these pages over the years.

This is the last issue of the *Journal of Legal Aspects of Sport* that I will edit and as I leave I thank the members of the Sport and Recreation Law Association for their support over the past twelve years as I have done my best to lead this publication. There are too many individuals for me to thank, but as I write this I have to give special thanks to Adam Epstein, Gil Fried, Barbara

Osborne, Rod Caughron, John Wolohan, Dan Connaughton, J.O. Spengler, Bill Miller, Becky Mowrey, John McMillen, Doyice Cotten, Cathy Claussen, and Richard Southall, for their friendship and support. Thanks to Lori Miller, our former Executive Director who fought many times on my behalf. For a long time as SRLA's two employees we were able to understand and support each other in a way no one else could. And a final special thanks to Mary Myers, who has always been there at a moment's notice and always worked with a smile.

I wish nothing but success to the next editor of this publication. He or she should also be allowed to start from a clean slate as I was. I hope that the members of the Sport & Recreation Law Association continue to support him or her and this publication as I believe it can be a flagship for this organization. In the world of sport law academia JLAS continues to be unique as a peer reviewed publication that can bridge the gap between law schools, practicing lawyers, other sports industry practitioners, and those who teach aspects of the law's application to sport in business schools, sports management programs, and other academic areas. And while doing this, JLAS will "continue to rely on the many scholars in the legal, sports management, physical education and other disciplines to supply it with high quality and novel scholarly work."<sup>3</sup>

When I took over as editor I promised that "in my tenure as Editor . . . I [would] build on the foundation that has been laid before me, and continue to produce the highest quality scholarly journal that can be produced."<sup>4</sup> I have done my best to keep this promise. I hope that the next individual who leads this publication will do the same.

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3. *Id.*

4. *Id.*