

Editor's Welcome

## ***The Journal of Legal Aspects of Sport: Past Success and Future Directions***

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&

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As we enter a new phase of journal leadership, we feel it is important to reflect upon the history of the *Journal of Legal Aspects of Sport*, and discuss current and future directions of the journal. The journal has a rich and meaningful history and has contributed greatly to the knowledge base around legal issues in the context of sport, recreation and physical activity. The journal was established in 1991 with the title *Journal of Legal Aspects of Sport and Physical Activity*. The founding editor was Dr. Gary R. Gray. Dr. Gray also served as the President of the Sport and Recreation Law Association (formerly the Society for the Study of Legal Aspects of Sport and Physical Activity (SSLASPA). As the founding editor, Dr. Gray's contributions were significant. The first and most obvious contribution was creating a new journal from scratch. The second major contribution was creating a quality journal that served the Association, and provided an outlet for high level legal scholarship outside the domain of law reviews. Dr. Gray served until 1995, serving as editor for volumes one through five. Dr. Gray is currently Director of Intercollegiate Athletics and Professor in the Sport Management graduate program at Montana State University-Billings.

In 1996, Dr. Tom Sawyer became the second editor of the journal. He also served as the treasurer and executive director of the Society for the Study of the Legal Aspects of Physical Activity and Sport (SSLASPA) for several years. Dr. Sawyer built upon the prior success of the journal established by Dr. Gray and worked tirelessly to ensure that the journal maintained its quality and rigor. This was a critical stage of development for a new journal in a specialized field. Dr. Sawyer stayed the course through his time as editor and provided exemplary leadership as journal editor. During his tenure, the name of the journal was changed to its current name, the *Journal of Legal Aspects of Sport*. He currently serves as professor of Sport Management at Indiana State University.

In 2001, when Professor Paul Anderson became journal editor, the journal was on solid footing and well prepared to build upon its success under the leadership of Dr. Gray and Dr. Sawyer. Mr. Anderson, a lawyer, skilled scholar, and editor of the *Marquette Sports Law Journal*, brought important legal knowledge and skills to the position of editor. During his term, he established an article review board, relationships with Lexis-Nexis, Hein Online and Westlaw to further the reach of the journal. Like his predecessors, he was successful in maintaining the quality and rigor of the journal. Professor Anderson stressed a legal focus to the journal throughout his tenure, and as a result, the journal became well known in the area of legal scholarship. Professor Anderson served as editor until 2010, bringing us to the next stage of leadership under the current editor, Dr. John Miller and associate editor, Dr. John Spengler.

As with all new beginnings, this is an exciting time. Due to the tremendous leadership of the past three editors, the journal provides important and timely information to scholars and practitioners. The intent of the *Journal of Legal Aspects of Sport* will be to continue to identify, reflect and challenge the kinds of research of legal aspects that can be practically and theoretically applied to all aspects of the sport and recreation paradigms. Such research will include legal and policy issues relevant to professional, intercollegiate, interscholastic, recreational and Olympic sport as well as associated risk management issues impacting sport clubs, fitness, health & wellness, and physical activity. By following the assertion that "...no specific method or practice can be privileged over any other" (Denzin & Lincoln, 2005, p. 7), the journal will not promote any one specific methodological approach over any other. The journal will encourage submissions addressing alternative viewpoints, methods, interpretations, and impacts.

Individuals submitting manuscripts to the *Journal of Legal Aspects of Sport* may be considered "critical citizens" who possess sufficient expertise and intellect to address, challenge, and explain the presumptions of legal issues in sport and/or recreation to other scholars and the general public. These are researchers who place legal aspects of sport and recreation as important decision- and policy-making components that may negatively or positively affect sport organizations, fans and spectators. Without a good comprehension of the profession, a division between researchers and practitioners may develop. Bedeian (1989) stated that research should "... be judged on the basis of the

substantive enlightenment it has supplied, not on the basis of the methodological heat it has generated” (p. 3). In other words, research must not only be based on sound methodology, but also report results that industry professionals and other policy and decision makers can use. The journal will provide opportunities to disseminate research beyond the traditional search by addressing injustices and advocating for social change in all of the traditions of the legal aspects of sport and recreation. The vision of Dr. Miller and associate editor, Dr. Spengler, is to reach a broader population of readers. To this end, the mission and objectives of the journal, with input and approval of the Board, have broadened the scope and included new types of articles to supplement the core research articles.

The insights that appear in the first *Journal of Legal Aspects of Sport* commentary from Olympian Steve Mesler and International Court of Arbitration for Sport’s John Wendt illustrates the new flavor of the journal. Mr. Mesler explains the trials and tribulations that United States Olympic athletes must endure for drug testing, while Professor Wendt reveals the aspects of drug testing from a legal perspective as a member of the International Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). We are very excited about the future of the *Journal of Legal Aspects of Sport* and are committed to build upon the success of the journal. As always, we welcome submissions and appreciate the quality opinion and work of the Board, the article review committee, our reviewers and authors. We hope you enjoy this and future editions of the journal.

### References

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