

## Editor's Welcome

**John Miller, Editor**  
**J.O. Spengler, Associate Editor**

We are delighted to serve you as we enter into a new phase of the *Journal of Legal Aspects of Sport* (JLAS) with our association with Human Kinetics. We would like to thank the Sport and Recreation Law Association (SRLA) Board of Directors for their support during this transition. In addition, we would like to thank Greg Reed, Human Kinetics Journals Division Director, and Doug Hoepker, Senior Journals Managing Editor at Human Kinetics, for their efforts in seeing this process through to fruition. Finally, we would like to acknowledge the members of the article review board for their willingness to continue their roles and provide their expertise as we transition to a new page in the history of this amazing journal.

*JLAS* has undergone several changes since its inception in 1991 as the *Journal of Legal Aspects of Sport and Physical Activity*. Yet, the mission of the journal to publish submissions of the highest scholarly quality and scientific rigor that can inform policy, advance the body of knowledge, and influence decision-making remains constant. Further, the *Journal* remains committed to improving the knowledge base on legal issues as applied to all aspects of the sport and recreation paradigms by serving as an interdisciplinary outlet to meet the needs of researchers, practitioners, and policymakers. As the editor and associate editor, our primary roles are to ensure that *JLAS* continues to publish manuscripts that are based on significant, current, and legal-specific issues that are analyzed through rigorous methods of inquiry so that a deeper and more informed understanding of how legal aspects impact individuals, organizations, and the overall sport and recreation industry can be achieved.

The relationship with Human Kinetics will provide *JLAS* with a vehicle to promote outstanding contributions. To this end, a unique domain web site has been designed to showcase the *Journal* (<http://jlas-journal.com>). In addition to providing an online version of each article within a designated issue prior to release of the print issue, the website will display ancillary content, such as news items about the journal, webinars on relevant topics, and occasional open access articles from the journal for promotional purposes. Human Kinetics will also digitize and display on the web site all *JLAS* back issues. Finally, *JLAS* will be indexed with Lexis-Nexis, Westlaw, HeinOnline, SPORTDiscus, and Cabell's. We believe that the relationship that has been developed with Human Kinetics will allow *JLAS*, as well as SRLA, to reach a broader audience.

While our goal is to continue to move the *Journal* forward, it is important to understand the history of the *Sport and Recreation Law Association*. To that extent, we present an exact re-print of the article written by one of the founders of *SRLA* (or

SSLASPA as the *Association* was first named), Dr. James Conn, for *JLAS* in 2001. Dr. Conn explains the trials and tribulations that he and another founder, Dr. John Merriman, encountered while working to provide the first *Sport and Recreation Law Association* conference. This historical piece helps us to better understand the past as we seek to transform the future.

In order to build on the body work that has been published in *JLAS* for more than two decades, we urge scholars in the disciplines of law, policy, sport, recreation, health, and wellness, and related disciplines, to submit manuscripts that will inform industry practice and impact societal change. Legal issues in sport and recreation have relevance to many fields with societal impact, including ethics, finance, and individual rights. One merely has to observe the Penn State debacle, concussion issues, and the Lance Armstrong saga to understand how legal issues in sport can affect society as a whole. As such, the Journal seeks to encourage multi-disciplinary studies that enhance understanding, as well as provide a prescription for the most critical challenges in sport, recreation, health, and wellness. Finally, we encourage the continuation of well-designed, applied research that can be effectively used by policy and decision makers to affect societal and industry change. If these efforts are realized, at least in part, we firmly believe that *JLAS* is poised to grow as the leading legal source of research-based knowledge in sport, recreation, and related fields. We look forward to providing you a journal with content that is interesting, informative, and impactful to both academia and society.