

Editor's Note

Thomas A. Baker III

Baker, T.A. & Connaughton, D.P. (2003). Cureton v. NCAA: A blow-by-blow account of the landmark Title VI challenges and their recent implications. *Journal of Legal Aspects of Sport*, 13, 145–179.

The above citation is my first research publication. I submitted the manuscript three months after having left the practice of law to pursue a Ph.D. at the University of Florida. In looking for an outlet for my first research article, Dan Connaughton, my advisor and co-author on the work, directed me to the *Journal of Legal Aspects of Sport* (JLAS). He identified JLAS as the best in our field. In 2003, the editor-in-chief of JLAS was Paul Anderson, a scholar who took his role in stewarding the journal so seriously that he labored over both substance and word choice in making my work proper for publication. His exacting approach to editorial review spoke to his demand for quality in JLAS contributions and provided me with a great deal of respect for him.

Similar respect also extends to his successors, Drs. John Miller and J.O. Spengler, who took editorial control over JLAS at a time when the journal was in a state of flux. Their stabilizing influence on JLAS is reason alone for commendation in this comment, but they also made modifications to almost all aspects of the journal. Their contributions transformed JLAS into a transdisciplinary outlet for sport law scholarship.

Now, as I take the reins as editor-in-chief of JLAS, I look to both the standards set by those who served before me and the untapped potential for this great journal as my guideposts. JLAS must maintain its rigor as the only peer-reviewed sport law journal in the academy, yet evolve to stay current in both content and format. The ways in which academic research is published and accessed are changing and JLAS must adapt, too. While not all of my initiatives are ripe for revealing in this issue, there are a few that can be shared.

First, the next issue of JLAS, to be published in February 2016, will be the journal's first special issue and will cover the 25th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Serving as special editors are the Sport & Recreation Law Association's own John Grady and Anita Moorman. My plan is for JLAS to publish a special issue each year, because doing so will allow JLAS to attract multidisciplinary studies and expand the journal's reach to new populations of scholars.

A second small, yet significant, addition that you may have already noticed is JLAS' presence on Twitter. The journal will use social media platforms to promote

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articles in an effort to call attention to the important research that JLAS publishes. The journal will also promote publications by opening access, for a limited time, to one or more articles per issue. Articles will be selected for open access based on their potential for citation. Please follow JLAS on Twitter for more information on open-access research articles and for further updates.

This brings me to my vision for JLAS. I will use the next four years of my service to position JLAS for expansion. I would like to see the journal publish more research publications. This is a long-term goal, but one that is necessary for JLAS to establish its Impact Factor. For that to happen, the number and quality of submissions must continue to increase. As for content, the key to this journal's future success is for it to consistently publish relevant research that pushes legal theory in interesting and new directions. Publishable works are those that yield both important practical and theoretical implications. To facilitate this aim, I have assembled an Editorial Board that is capable of reviewing traditional legal research, qualitative research involving legal subjects, quantitative research involving legal theory, or mixed-method approaches. I believe that JLAS is uniquely positioned to meet the call for both traditional and empirical legal research. Many within our community have training that allows them to conduct both traditional and empirical studies that tackle sport law problems.

This issue includes articles covering topics, such as anti-doping regulation, labor law, and academic fraud, that exemplify the relevance and reach of sport law and feature studies that vary greatly in methodology and in application. Many of the topics covered in this issue are ripped straight from the headlines, demonstrating public and industrial interest in sport law scholarship. But there is one article in particular that is relevant to me on a personal level as it represents my sixth contribution to JLAS. Its inclusion in this issue is coincidental, but I take pride in the fact that the first author on the work is my former advisee, Dr. Natasha Brison. This is her second publication in JLAS and represents the continuation of a legacy that started when my former adviser suggested that I send my first research manuscript to JLAS, because it is the best journal in the field of sport law.