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Sports law paralegal

Sports law is the collection of the many different types of law that impact the sports industry. Sports law might involve issues that relate to professional or Olympic athletes. It also relates to laws that govern youth and amateur sports. There are many different types of law that impact the sports industry like contract law, personal injury law, trademark, criminal law, and athletic administration. Sports lawyers live and work throughout the United States. What is sports law? Even though professional sports agents might be the first thing that come to mind, sports law is a broad term for many different types of law that impact the way people play sports both professionally and recreational. For example, a professional athlete relies on contract law for a playing agreement. Trademark law might protect the team that they play for. If an athlete gets hurt inside or outside the field of play, personal injury law might come into play. In addition to professional athletes, sports law reaches the youngest children that play sports. Rules for coach training and safety equipment might impact young athletes. College athletes also feel the impact of sports law as the colleges and universities they play with work to comply with Title IX laws and regulations from sports governing authorities like the NCAA and the NAIA. Some types of sports law include: Contract law in sports law Perhaps the most well known area of sports law is contract law. Contracts between professional athletes and the teams that employ them are of critical importance. For star athletes, contracts can involve millions of dollars. A contract must carefully spell out terms of performance. Sports lawyers often serve as agents as well as legal negotiators. Sports law involves more than just athletes; coaches, trainers, managers and athletic trainers need sports contracts, too. Lawyers who practice sports law are often both the contract drafters and the negotiators when millions of dollars are on the line. Personal injury law in sports law Personal injuries happen in sports. A personal injury can occur during the game, and it can occur outside of the field of play. Personal injury law may be relevant to sports law. While an athlete may bring a legal claim after a personal injury, the millions of fans that attend sporting events may have personal injury claims too. Any venue that hosts sporting events must take care to avoid negligent behaviors that may lead to personal injury liability. A sports venue may have a high duty to keep their property safe for patrons who buy tickets under the legal theory of premises liability. If a fan gets injured at a game, it may become a legal issue if the sports venue is negligent in their maintenance of the property. Trademark law in sports law Professional sports teams depend on their trademarks. Trademark infringement is a challenging area of sports law for the attorneys who work to enforce trademarks on behalf of college and professional sports teams. Merchandising is often as critical to the income of a college or professional team as ticket sales. Sports lawyers perform a critical function enforcing the trademark rights of the teams they represent. Criminal law in sports law Sports law isn't immune from criminal law. A jury convicted Major League Baseball star Barry Bonds of obstruction of justice for his testimony to a grand jury. Bonds' trainer faced federal charges for providing athletes with banned steroids. A higher court later overturned the conviction on appeal. Athletes are not immune from criminal prosecution for on-field behavior. Most behavior in sports falls under presumed consent. In other words, some physical contact is part of the game. However, when contact goes above and beyond what's expected and reasonable in a sporting event, an athlete may face criminal prosecution for their actions. Whether an athlete is a professional, collegiate athlete or amateur, any athlete may face criminal charges for an assault and battery offense that goes beyond the scope of play. Some sporting activity is outright illegal. For example, cock fighting and dog fighting is banned in all 50 states. In some states, it's illegal to even watch a cockfight. Some offenses are criminal felonies. Professional athletes are subject to the laws of society. When they face criminal charges, it's often high profile. Their professional reputation or participation in their athletic league may be on the line. Criminal charges for athletes in professional sports and for collegiate athletes may be high-stakes. Sports lawyers must work to protect their athletes' record as well as their professional reputation. Athletic administration in sports law Both laws and administrative regulations play a role in sports law in the form of collegiate athletics. Colleges and universities must comply with a myriad of federal and state laws as well as governing body regulations when they run college athletics programs. These regulations cover everything from equal opportunities to banned substances, practice schedules and other regulations for the health and safety of athletes. Colleges and universities must understand these laws and regulations and implement them to the satisfaction of law enforcement or sport governing bodies like the NCAA. Organizations that violate laws may find themselves the subject of discipline by enforcement agencies. Labor and employment law in sports law Professional sports teams and sports venues are employers. From the professional athletes to coaches to the security guards and concessions team members that work at games, a professional or college sports team is an employer. Labor and employment laws apply to sports teams. Practicing sports law might mean helping the client understand and implement labor and employment laws including hiring practices, termination procedures, workers compensation, health insurance mandates, taxes and medical leave. Personal property law in sports law Sports law may include personal property law. Sports memorabilia may be an issue in sports law. Sports law may determine who owns an item of sports memorabilia when ownership is in dispute. Alternatively, when a divorce involves sports memorabilia, sports law may involve family law. Sports law continues to grow and change Sports law is not static; it is as unpredictable as any athletic contest. As issues continue to grow and change in sports, sports lawyers must work with evolving issues. One example of a recent sports law issues is the issue of concussions in all sports especially football. The NFL faces legal claims from players who say that the NFL knew that the sport was unreasonably dangerous and failed to take steps to protect the safety of players. As sports law continues to grow and evolve, sports lawyers have new issues of law to develop and pursue. Who practices sports law? Sports lawyers live and work in major cities throughout the United States. Lawyers who work for professional sports teams live in the cities where the teams operate. Lawyers who work for professional athletes either live in major entertainment hubs like New York or Los Angeles or they work in the cities where the athletes and other professionals work. Lawyers in sports law work both as private attorneys who represent individual athletes and as in house attorneys who work for professional sports teams. Lawyers who work as private practice attorneys are more likely to specialize in a niche area of sports law and serve their clients only in that capacity; in house counsel attorneys who work on behalf of private sports organizations are more likely to serve their clients in a variety of legal areas. Most lawyers who practice sports law have a diverse understanding of the many different areas of law that may impact their clients. Why become a sports lawyer? Attorneys who practice sports law have the opportunity to practice their craft in an exciting arena. They have the opportunity to practice law in a high-profile and influential field. For attorneys who enjoy sports, a specialization in sports law can be a challenging way to stay active in the world of sports while earning an income in a unique area of law. Turning a game into a profession Professional, collegiate and recreational sports are important both to participants and to fans. Sports law is a fun and challenging way to practice an area of law in a way that relates to sports. Whether a sports lawyer focuses only on sports-related clients or practices sports law as part of a broader practice, sports law can be a fun way to practice serious business. A paralegal is a person who assists a lawyer. There are many types of paralegals who help lawyers who specialize in many different fields. A sports law paralegal is a paralegal who assists a sports law attorney. Sports law attorneys specialize in representing sports figures and other people associated with major league sports. Although a career as a sports law paralegal is specialized and may be difficult to find, if you have a love for sports and a good knowledge of the law, this job may be for you. Sports paralegals focus on the specific needs of the sports law attorney. These issues include drafting and editing contracts between players and teams and preparing for dispute resolution procedures used within the sports field. The sports law paralegal will help the sports attorney in such jobs as researching labor laws and contract guidelines, communicating with the sports figures, recruiting new clients, and negotiating the contracts of the sports figures with sports teams. To become a sports law paralegal, you will need at least an associate degree. You can earn this degree in a community college. Your salary will be higher if you have a bachelor's or a master's degree in paralegal studies. Those who already have a bachelor's degree can earn a certificate in the field of paralegal studies. To increase your chances of finding a job as a sports law paralegal, you should consider gaining a certificate as a sports law paralegal. There are a number of skills that will help the sports law paralegal be successful. In addition to excellent reading, writing, and oral communication skills, you must be familiar with sports and the needs of sports professionals. You must also have good organizational skills. Because sports law paralegals spend a lot of time working directly with clients, they must be able to develop and maintain good relationships. Because the job is very specialized, it may take you a number of years to gain the appropriate skills and to find exactly the job you are looking for. You should be prepared to consider working as a paralegal in other related fields to gain work experience skills as you search for a job in sports law. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average yearly compensation in 2010 for a paralegal was $46,680. But the salary of a paralegal will vary substantially depending on the area of law, and annual salaries in some fields may average as high as $61,764. Opportunities for paralegals are growing about as fast as are opportunities for other jobs. Paralegals and legal assistants earned a median annual salary of $49,500 in 2016, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. On the low end, paralegals and legal assistants earned a 25th percentile salary of $38,230, meaning 75 percent earned more than this amount. The 75th percentile salary is $63,640, meaning 25 percent earn more. In 2016, 285,600 people were employed in the U.S. as paralegals and legal assistants. Internship in Optical SensingORISEWright-Patterson Air Force Base, OH LawInSport is a knowledge hub, educational platform and global community of over 18,000 members who work in, or a have an interest in sport. media and the law globally. LawInSport is the world's largest community of lawyers and executives throughout the legal, media and sports sectors who proactively engage with our services daily. Our reputation for high quality content, strong values and ethical approach to business means we have a unique relationship with our community that enables us to engage with and represent them to help them find the right career path (for individuals) and talent (for organisations). We are here to help organisations who want the best solution to solve their recruitment needs by providing services that puts the development of long term and meaningful relationships above short term returns. Services We offer a comprehensive service: Executive Search - including board and committee members Advertised Selection (filter applications for you) Jobs Board Advertising Interim Appointments Paralegal Resourcing We can provide further details of each service on request. Clients who work with LawInSport National Governing Bodies and International Federations of Sport British Horseracing Authority (BHA) England Golf England Rugby Football Association of Wales International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) International Olympic Committee (IOC) Sport England The Football Association (The FA) World Sailing Law Firms LEVEL Lewis Silkin Onside Law Sheridans Media Companies and Agencies Athletic Management Services (AMS) BT Sport CSM IMG Lagardère Sports Rugby Travel & Hospitality Limited Regulators and Arbitrations Services Sport Resolutions UK Anti-Doping (UKAD) Sports Teams & Leagues Chelsea Football Club Formula One Management Limited Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix Limited NBA China The Premier League CONTACT US John CullenDirector of RecruitmentEmail: This email address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it. General Enquiries Email: This email address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it.. In 2018 the global sports market was valued at $488.5 billion and it is expected to reach over $600 billion by 2022! And with all that money at stake, the industry needs a robust system of checks and regulations to ensure fans, players, and clubs get the best deals and are not exploited. That's where sports lawyers come into play. They deal with everything from contracts to trademark law to tax issues. And while they probably won't get the same adoration as our favorite sports stars, they play a crucial role in making sure we can enjoy the games and sporting events that we love so much. So here's what you need to know about studying and working in sports law. What does a sports lawyer do? Sports lawyers represent the legal interests of their clients, which can include individual players, athletes, coaching staff, and even entire teams. It's their job to take care of the stuff that happens off the pitch, ensuring their clients can remain 100% focused on their performances. After all, top-level sport is a high-pressure environment where the smallest margins can make a huge difference. Every year two English football teams face each other in a playoff game to reach the Premiership (the highest division in English football). That one-off match is worth an estimated £300 million for the winner! Keeping your eyes on the prize is a crucial part of sporting success. That's why sporting lawyers help secure and negotiate contracts, facilitate sponsorship deals, resolve labor disputes, and fight their client's corners when it comes to any internal issues with their clubs. They will even defend their clients in court against criminal charges, as well as in lawsuits for breach of contract, harassment, or any other issues. Moreover, they often act as a spokesperson, shielding sports stars from the relentless gaze of the modern media machine. Sports lawyers are also instrumental in setting up any business ventures or charities in the client's name. Former footballers David Beckham and Didier Drogba used sports lawyers to donate vast amounts of money to charitable causes in Africa, while boxer Tyson Fury's legal team made sure that every penny from his bout with Deontay Wilder went to the homeless. Does a sports agent need to go to law school? Just like any other type of lawyer, sports lawyers need an undergraduate degree followed by a few years at law school. (Sports agents work a little differently and don't need any formal qualifications in law. However, this means they are not permitted to give any legal advice on contracts, sponsorship deals, or any other matters relating to jurisprudence. In other words, they can negotiate the best deals, but the ultimate responsibility remains with the client.) Law school usually lasts around three years. And while online learning offers flexibility in some cases, the majority of courses need to be completed in the allotted timeframe. You don't need any particular undergraduate degree to get into law school, although a law degree or a related program (such as political science, history, or philosophy) will definitely help you find your feet a bit quicker. Law school is taxing and competitive, especially if you're talented enough to land a place at the top institutes. So get ready for lots of reading, some rigorous exams, and plenty of interesting debates with your fellow classmates and lecturers. Tips on becoming a sports lawyer So once you've got your law degree, how do you become a sports lawyer? The first thing you will need is some experience, and it doesn't have to be in sports law. A short tenure working in litigation, employment law, or commercial law will look great on your CV, and you will start to learn how law functions. Moreover, you can start building up a reputation and a valuable network of contacts. You can then put out the word that you're interested in sports law. Do it right, and it won't be long before an opportunity presents itself. Alternatively, you can go right to the source by writing emails and letters to sport law firms, clubs, or agents. You will need to strike the right balance between enthusiasm and professionalism. For example, you want them to know you love sports, but not at the expense of illustrating your professional expertise. Internships, work experience placements, and secondments are also great ways to get a foot in the door. Darren Heitner is the CEO of Heitner Legal, a specialist sports law firm that focuses on entertainment and intellectual property law, and he's also the author of How to Play the Game: What Every Sports Attorney Needs to Know. When asked what advice he'd give to aspiring sports lawyers, he said, "If you are searching for a "Sports Law job," then you are doing it wrong. […] Become an experienced practitioner, first and foremost. And always be building your brand. Do whatever you can to network with those in the sports industry while also showing off your expertise in a particular part of the small sports business world." Different types of sports law Sports is a global industry worth billions of dollars. With that much money at stake, contract law is essential. Contracts ensure players are treated fairly, and that they understand their responsibilities to the sport, especially if they are a global superstar. For example, many clubs insert morality clauses into contacts, which give them the right to withhold wages or even terminate the deal if the player's actions are seen to bring the organization into disrepute. But contracts also make sure big-name players are protected and rewarded. This could include extra financial incentives for points scored, assists created, or appearances made. Stars can make colossal money lending their names to products. Moreover, companies can boost sales or brand awareness through association with well-known clubs or athletes. Intellectual property rights are there to facilitate fair deals between players and sponsors, as well as litigating against anybody who uses a star's name without permission or misrepresents them in a negative manner. An injury can sideline an athlete for weeks or maybe even months. A nasty injury can also end a professional's sporting dreams forever. Sports lawyers can represent their client in compensation claims, helping players land a big settlement to bridge the gap between the end of one career and the start of another. Sports lawyers may file a suit against the player's current employer or a third party responsible for a career-ending tackle. This is exactly what Alex McKinnon did; the Aussie-rules football player sued a rival player following a bad tackle, which led to life-changing spinal injuries. Sports lawyers help teams find new owners, source funds to prevent winding down orders, or assist in setting up new clubs or franchises. A group of sports lawyers is currently working with David Beckham to get his MLS franchise ready for a 2020 debut, which includes navigating many regulations to find a temporary stadium while also negotiating deals to build a brand new one by 2022. Do sports lawyers make good money? Three years at law school can be expensive. Thankfully, once you've qualified, it should not be too long before you start seeing a return on your investment. Sports Lawyers typically make around $65,084 a year, while top earners can take home as much as $147,000. Location, experience, and skillset are the major factors which push up one's earnings in this field. Becoming a sports lawyer takes much hard work, dedication, and focus. But the rewards are well worth it! Not only will you earn a decent salary, but you will also be part of a global phenomenon that brings joy to billions around the world...

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