

MISSISSIPPI SPORTS LAW REVIEW

EDITOR'S NOTE

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In its third publication year, the MISSISSIPPI SPORTS LAW REVIEW, through the dedication of its members, faculty support, and outside following has been able to propel its status in the legal and sports community to new heights. Although it is still new to the publication world, the REVIEW has been able to build upon the successes of our previous two classes, continuing its prowess as a legal journal focused on amateur and professional sports.

While our main focus for the 2013-2014 publication year was to publish engaging and hotly debated scholarly articles written from outside of our Ole Miss legal community, as an organization we continued in our quest to further the writing and editing skills of our current thirty-one members. Although the REVIEW thrives at putting on our annual sports law symposium, it was important for us as a new organization, dedicated to the world of publishing, to foster and develop the legal writing skills that are imperative to the operation of a successful legal journal. At the close of this year, I hope that we have developed a class of not only students, but also scholars that will continue to publish quality articles that contribute the sports law field.

Although publication is the central focus of the MISSISSIPPI SPORTS LAW REVIEW, it is hard to ignore the growing success of our other endeavor, the annual sports law symposium. The REVIEW has always been dedicated to putting on an annual event to discuss the most hotly debated topic in the legal sports world today. It is easy to see why this year's topic was *Amateurism and the Future of the NCAA*. Our panel of men and women, who are pioneers and leaders of the sports world, joined together to debate the current crisis that faces the NCAA as the premier collegiate sports model. Once again, we are so grateful and appreciative of this year's speakers, which included: Richard Karcher (Professor of Law at Florida Coastal School of Law), William King, III

(Partner at Lightfoot, Franklin, & White in Birmingham, Alabama), Jason Levien (CEO of the Memphis Grizzlies), Matthew Mitten (Director of the National Sports Law Institute and the L.L.M. in Sports Law Program at Marquette University School of Law), and Maureen Weston (Professor of Law and Director of the Entertainment, Media and Sports Dispute Resolution Project at Pepperdine Law School). This volume begins with a full transcript of the symposium, followed by articles from two of our prominent guests, Professor Richard Karcher and Professor Maureen Weston.

The major success of both the publication and the symposium would not be possible without the continued support from the faculty and staff of the University of Mississippi School of Law. We would like to thank Dean Richard Gershon and the rest of the Dean's staff for their tireless support and assistance in the creation of the symposium, as well as the publication. We would also like to thank Dean Matthew Hall, who this year helped the REVIEW further its mark at the law school, by allowing our members to receive academic recognition for their membership. Lastly, we would like to thank our faculty advisor, Professor William W. Berry III, who once again has stood as the pillar of support and guidance for the REVIEW. Without his consistent knowledge and willingness to provide assistance, the REVIEW would most certainly not be where we are today.

Most importantly, I would like to thank each and every one of the MISSISSIPPI SPORTS LAW REVIEW'S current members. Each member worked to support my goal of making this publication even finer than the years before it, and I am thankful to have had such a wonderful staff. I would like to give a special thanks to this year's executive board. To Taylor Hanks, Executive Editor, for his ability to stand by my side and support the REVIEW with all difficulties that came our way. To McCauley Williams, Business Editor, who not only aided us financially with the creation of the *John Paul Jones Speaker Series*, but also helped the law school further its goal of creating a wider sports law network by successfully leading the Mississippi School of Law Sports Law Society. To Cullen Manning and Mary Kate Zekert, our Senior Article and Senior Notes Editor, for their persistence in producing quality work, not only with our writing and editing material, but also in the success of this year's symposium. Lastly, to Woods Drinkwater, Senior Online Editor, who helped me daily with all

miscellaneous matters, but most importantly helped in propelling us further into the digital world with the creation of our impressive new website and regular online content. Without each of these members a copy of this volume would not be in your hands today.

On a final personal note, I would like to thank the ever-present group of individuals that were a major part of my life here at Ole Miss – the members of the University of Mississippi Athletic Compliance Office. Each of you helped to foster my love of college sports and helped me see a bigger picture of the world of collegiate athletics. Without you, I would not be prepared to enter into a profession that I now know and love.

To the members of the REVIEW, our faculty and staff, and our readers thank you again for your continued dedication. I am so thankful for the opportunity to serve as Editor-in-Chief and hope that our collective interest in sports law will continue to push this publication to further success.