



# For The Record

The Official Newsletter of the National Sports Law Institute

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## THE NATIONAL SPORTS LAW INSTITUTE CELEBRATES ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY



James Ghiardi

### The Institute and the Law School Curriculum

By **James Ghiardi** (L'42), Professor of Law-Emeritus, Marquette University Law School, and member, NSLI Board of Advisors, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

I would like to congratulate the National Sports Law Institute on its growth and accomplishments during the past 20 years. It has developed from the germ of an idea to become an integral and valuable asset to the Marquette University Law School.

In 1989 I was a full-time faculty member of the Law School and was chairman of its curriculum committee. The committee's responsibility was to consider any changes to or additions to the Law School's academic offerings and to make recommendations to the faculty. In 1979 it approved a course entitled "Negotiating and Drafting of Personal Service Contracts." Although the course dealt primarily with sports, it was not considered a "sports course." Its title was subsequently changed to "Personal Service Contracts." In 1989, Professor Martin Greenberg and the Law School administration proposed the establishment of a National Sports Law Institute at the Law School to become a specialized center for the study of sports law. One of its four goals was the creation of specialty courses in sports law as part of the Law School's curriculum.

In 1989, the concept of having specialty courses in sports law as part of the curricular offering of the Law School was not a familiar one in the United States. It was new, novel and met with some skepticism. The reaction of the Marquette Law School faculty was mixed. Some were indifferent to the proposal, the majority were interested and wanted to learn more about it and how it would fit into the overall operations of the Law School, and a minority of the faculty were initially opposed to the concept of specialty courses in sports. The opposition was primarily

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based on the opinion that sports law was not, in and of itself, a specialty. In their opinion, it would be merely an extension of existing courses such as Contracts, Torts, Taxation, Corporations, Agency, Property, etc. Some concern was also expressed as to its possible impact on the financial resources of the school and its proposed curricular expansion. At the time, the faculty was in the process of planning to add course offerings in developing areas of the law (e.g. Intellectual Property), as well as the expansion of seminar and clinical offerings.

In order to implement the first phase of the Institute's goals, to wit, the establishment of specialty courses in sports law as an integral part of the Law School's credit offerings, the matter was referred to the Curriculum Committee. The Committee went to work on the issue of what the courses should be and what their content would consist of.

After numerous meetings, and with the assistance of Professor Greenberg and Deans DeGuire and Mentkowski, a list, the titles and the content of these specialized courses in sports law was recommended to the Law Faculty for approval. The Faculty approved the recommendations and the Institute's first goal was achieved and ready for implementation. The Institute then proceeded to work on its other goals, including that of initially becoming financially self sufficient.

The Institute was integrated into the Law School's J.D. program and become a vital part of life at the School. The passing of time has proved it to be a successful unit of Marquette Law School. Since its inception, it has grown and matured. Numerous modifications have been made in the offerings, programs and activities since its inception, but its core goal of offering a specialized program in sports law continues. It can be stated with certainty that it has filled an important need in legal education. Nationally and internationally it has added prestige and recognition to the School. Hopefully, the Institute will continue to grow and expand as the Law School approaches a new area in its over 100 years of existence.

Sports Law Course 1989

*Personal Service Contracts*

Sports Law Courses 2009

*Amateur Sports Law*

*Amateur Sports Law Workshop*

*Current Issues In Sports Law: Sports Industry Governance*

*Professional Sports Law*

*Selected Topics In Sports Law Seminar*

*Sport, Law And Society Seminar*

*Workshop In Sport Law - "Representing Professional Athletes And Coaches"*

*Workshop In Sport Law - "Sports Industry Legal And Business Practices"*

*Workshop In Sports Law - "Sports Venues: From Election Day To Game Day"*

*Workshop: Topics In Advanced Legal Research - Sports Law*



**CELEBRATING 20 YEARS (1989-2009)**