

amazing events and future elite sports lawyers on the horizon. Along with my fellow alumni, I am proud of the achievements of those that follow and look forward eagerly to what lies ahead.



Lauren McCoy

The Pursuit of Sports Law (or How I Learned to Love the Law)

By **Lauren McCoy** (L'09), Murrysville, Pennsylvania, and Member, Sports Law Alumni Association

My search for the perfect law school four years ago was directed primarily towards sports law. It was my one great passion that I often encouraged with dreams of grandeur. Ironically, it was during a sporting event that I discovered the National Sports Law Institute. As I went through the brochures I had collected while watching basketball on television, it was my belief that the best sports law programs would have no more than a few courses. But when I opened Marquette's brochure and discovered its impressive sports law curriculum, I immediately knew that Marquette was my first choice.

When I applied to Marquette, I utilized that single-minded focus and wrote of my perceptions of sports law in my admissions essay. I wrote specifically of my feelings after a thrilling basketball game that ended with a gut-wrenching buzzer beater. At the time, that was the whole of my knowledge of sports law. While aware of the business aspects, I saw myself participating in the splendor and attending all sporting events, without taking in much of the substance of what sports law entails. In fact, all I knew is that I wanted to be a lawyer who worked in sports. Choosing Marquette and the NSLI turned out to be one of the best decisions of my life, in terms of nurturing and supporting my dreams, and preparing me for success as an attorney.

I quickly discovered during my first year at Marquette that I was among familiar company. Many of my fellow students had traveled hundreds of miles to Marquette just for the opportunity to study sports law. The NSLI had become a nationally recognized leader of sports law curriculum and part of Marquette's appeal by the time I enrolled in the fall of 2006. While the first year students have to wait until our second year to get fully involved in the program, we were welcomed from day one through a sports law mixer and other related activities. Apart from classes, there were a number of events and social outings conducted by the NSLI and the Sports Law Society, meant to introduce us to others who chose a similar career path and how they got to where they are now. These events also increased our knowledge of sports law and current events, and made me that much more excited to learn about sports law.

The successes of the NSLI and the Sports Law program became more recognizable to me based on my own experiences by the time I was able to take sports law classes. I was so focused on getting my Sports Law Certificate that, during my second year at Marquette, I only took classes directly connected to the Sports Law program or perspective courses intended to supplement the requirements for the Sports Law Certificate. In these courses I learned about more than just sports law, I also gained the necessary tools to be a successful lawyer. As I grew fond of various legal fields and felt that I improved my skills as a future lawyer, I quickly realized that sports law is simply the study of law in a sports setting. This theory helped amplify my confidence as an attorney, because I was able to learn all I needed, while following a career that I loved.

Furthermore, the Sports Law program made me become a better writer through the *Marquette Sports Law Review*. Working on a legal publication is often tedious and time-consuming, but I would do it all

again if I had to because that experience was undoubtedly useful when I wrote and then sought publishers for my own legal analysis. Without the knowledge and contacts I gained through the NSLI, I would not have had an article published before I left law school.

More important than classroom knowledge, the NSLI gave me actual business experience and contacts. All students seeking the Sports Law certificate are required to complete a sports-related internship during their second or third year. Each student is given the chance to meet with Professor Anderson to discuss their specific interests in sports law. This information is used to match each participating student to an appropriate internship. I was fortunate enough to work with the Milwaukee Bucks and later the Hicks Sports Group in Texas. Through these internships, I began to pick up on the day-to-day responsibilities of legal counsel for a professional team, received the experience I will need to pursue this career in the future, while establishing contacts I could maintain through the rest of my career.

These professional sports internships are just one of the many opportunities that allow students each year to gain experience in the illusive world of sports. Sports internship opportunities are exceedingly rare, and it is great to have a place like the NSLI as a starting point. Additionally, the various internships available to students have the effect of enhancing one's general base of legal knowledge. I have no doubt that I will be a better lawyer in the future, regardless of whether I obtain sports-related employment, because of the experience and contacts I gained through the Sports Law program.

In twenty years, the NSLI has come a long way. The program has been able to grow in terms of size and recognition, at Marquette Law School and in the greater sports law community, under the guidance of Professors Anderson, Greenberg and Mitten along with the countless others who have made the program what it is today. Their enthusiasm for sports law and their desire to teach others has inspired many students like me, and I, for one, will be forever grateful for the education I received under their tutelage. My experiences with the NSLI taught me the lessons I needed to be a successful attorney and the tools required to achieve that same success in sports law. I have no doubt that the NSLI and the Sports Law program will continue to guide future students in the same way.



Alex Porteshawver

Marquette University & Sports Law: A Winning Combination

By **Alex Porteshawver** (L'10), Editor-in-Chief, *Marquette Sports Law Review*, 2009-2010.

The presence of the National Sports Law Institute is why I decided to come to Marquette University Law School. After spending two years heavily involved with the program, I feel that I could not have made a better decision. The Institute and the Sports Law program have provided me with so many opportunities to pursue my passion. While I admit that I really had no idea what it meant to be a sports lawyer, I quickly learned that it was not just about sports law. To be successful in the sports world, you must be a fantastic lawyer, with knowledge in a wide variety of areas.

I had great opportunities to build this foundation in my first year courses, and then dove in to the sports law curriculum my second year. I have taken courses focused on the general practice of professional sports law, the legal issues and trends surrounding stadiums and venues, and have conducted in-depth legal research on a current sports law topic. Perhaps the best experience for me thus far, is my time spent as a member of the *Marquette Sports Law Review*. I made sure to take advantage of this great opportunity my second year, and worked hard to grasp sports law concepts while I reviewed and edited articles. I am even more excited about the current academic year and am privileged to serve as the