

entertainment law since the sports and entertainment practices are more often than not coupled together. Based on student interest and under Professor Anderson's leadership, the Law School has participated, and continues to participate, in the National Entertainment Law Moot Court Competition sponsored each fall by Pepperdine University in addition to the Mardi Gras National Sports Law Competition.

More importantly, I believe that the Institute's and program's continued growth and reputation over the years could not have been accomplished without the support of Deans Eisenberg and Kearney, the past and present Directors of the Institute, the Law School professors who teach the classes and continuously support the Program, and its benefactors, especially the Greenberg and Tierney families, and the O'Neill family along with the law firm of Davis and Kuelthau, S.C.

However, I believe that the program and Institute's most important asset is its alumni. As the program has grown through the years it is only natural that the Sports Law Alumni Association has grown with it. If you look at the list of the Association members you will see that there are more and more alumni working in both the professional and amateur sports industries which only enhances the prestige of the Sports Law program and the National Sports Law Institute. For example, alums are working for professional sport teams, college athletic departments, and some are teaching sports law classes at other universities. There are also those of us that have gone outside the box and forged our careers in non-traditional areas of the sports industry allowing us to keep our hands in the game. Still there are many that do not practice in the area at all but apply what they learned in their sports law classes and rely on the valuable experiences they gained through the program in their chosen career field. No matter what path we have chosen we should continue to remain committed to the Law School, the Sports Law program and the National Sports Law Institute. Our continued participation is necessary for the Sports Law program and the National Sports Law Institute to continue to expand and thrive whether we speak formally or informally to current students about our careers; speak to prospective students about the program and what it offers; attend any of the sponsored events, conferences or golf outing; or donate to the scholarship fund. One of the best things about the Sports Law program and the Institute is that once you graduate you are not forgotten. Both strive to keep us informed, involved, and infatuated with the program and the Institute. I, for one, am privileged to be associated with and represent the Law School, the Sports Law program, and the National Sports Law Institute.



Marquette University & Sports Law: A Winning Combination

By **Jenni Spies** (L'06), Assistant District Attorney, Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Editor-in-Chief, Marquette Sports Law Review, 2005-2006, and NSLI Research Assistant 2004-2006.

I can still vividly remember sitting in an undergraduate class and typing, "Sports Law Programs" into an internet search engine. I was studying for an undergraduate degree in Sport Management and had just discovered an area of study called, "Sports Law." I did not know exactly what sports law was, but I did know that I had enjoyed studying the law in my legal studies classes, and I loved sports. The first result that showed up on my internet search was Marquette University Law School. I was immediately impressed by the number of classes and educational opportunities available through the Marquette Sports Law program and the National Sports

Law Institute. Shortly thereafter, I met with my professor who taught the undergraduate level sports law classes to discuss my options after graduation. He gave a rave review of the Sports Law program at Marquette and that sealed the deal. I was packing up and moving to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, quite a move for a lifelong East Coast resident.

When I first arrived at Marquette, I made a point to seek out the Sports Law program, and attend any event that was being hosted by the National Sports Law Institute or the Sports Law Society. As I attended more and more of these events, I quickly noticed that many of the other people at these events had also chosen Marquette Law School specifically for the Sports Law program as well. It got to the point where if I met a student who was not from Wisconsin, it was a safe assumption that that individual had chosen Marquette and moved from any number of far flung places for the specific purpose of study sports law at Marquette.

As I slogged my way through the ominous 1L year, I attended numerous panel discussions and social events hosted by the National Sports Law Institute, anticipating the time when I would be finished with my required 1L classes and able to start exploring the Sports Law curriculum. My first opportunity to delve into the world of sports law came at the end of my first year, when I decided to write on to the *Marquette Sports Law Review*. I was excited to finally use my newly learned legal writing skills, and apply them to something that really interested me.

I knew when I applied to Marquette Law School and moved across the country for the Sports Law program that I had no interest in working in the day-to-day operations of the sports industry, but rather I was interested in the academic side of Sports Law. I simply enjoyed reading, writing, and researching about sport and how it intersected with the law. With that in mind, I embraced all aspects of the Sports Law program both in and out of the classroom. In addition to my role as a member of the *Marquette Sports Law Review*, I was also able to argue onto the Sports Law Moot Court team and learn valuable oral advocacy skills that I still use in my career today. Because the Sports Law program had become such an integral part of the Marquette Law School community, I was able to extend my interest in sports law into other classes, writing papers about sports law for seemingly unrelated classes.

As I continued in my career at Marquette Law School, I discovered that my long term career goals were pulling me away from the arena of sports law. However, I still remained actively involved in the Sports Law program, serving as Editor-in-Chief of the *Marquette Sports Law Review* and as an assistant to the National Sports Law Institute. I still attended the numerous career panels and academic presentations that the NSLI routinely put on. I was able to learn valuable skills, most notably writing and oral advocacy skills that I am able to use every day in my role as an Assistant District Attorney.

As the National Sports Law Institute heads into its twentieth year, I am sure it will continue to grow and flourish as an integral part of the Marquette Law School community. What started as one or two classes has blossomed into the leading Sports Law program in the country and the reason I, and countless other individuals, have chosen to attend Marquette University. The skills I learned while participating in the Sports Law program will continue to allow me expand my career into the future.