



Greg Heller

## National Sports Law Institute and the Sports Law program at Marquette: Creating a Community of Lawyers

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I am forever grateful for the time that I spent at Marquette University Law School and the experiences I was able to undertake through the National Sports Law Institute. Having spent my undergraduate years at a school in the Big 10 (Indiana University), it was an exciting time to come to a different, urban campus like Marquette and specifically to a new and exciting program like the Sports Law program. The NSLI was only four years old when I started at Marquette and it was still located on 17<sup>th</sup> Street. I could not wait to get on campus and dive right in to this exciting, new program that was unlike any other program in the country.

As a law student there were so many opportunities to get involved in the area of sports law and pursue my dreams. I tried to pursue as many opportunities as possible including working as a research assistant at the NSLI, doing an internship with the Milwaukee Brewers, writing on the Sports Law Journal, joining the Sports Law Society and taking the various sports law courses and electives. It was an exciting time to begin pursuing a career in a field I was so passionate about while also making friendships along the way with others who were equally passionate.

The National Sports Law Institute has grown tremendously over the years with its move to the main law school, its annual conference and journal and its reputation across the country. A real telling sign is the number of alumnus that are graduates of the program that are spread throughout the country in a wide array of positions and organizations. As an alumnus, it is a genuine pleasure to come back to speak to students and attend the conferences that are so well put together. As I have had the opportunity to pursue my own career in a field that I am so passionate about, I am extremely proud and forever grateful to the experiences that I have had at Marquette and the National Sports Law Institute. As we celebrate the NSLI's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we should all take time and remember the many individuals who contributed to the NSLI's success over the years including Dean DeGuire, Marty Greenberg, Professor Mentkowski, Dean Eisenberg and Jim Gray and those individuals who are leading the NSLI into the future including Dean Kearney, Professor Mitten, and Professor Anderson.

As a community of Marquette lawyers with the many partners of the NSLI, we have built the foundation for the top Sports Law program in the country. As alumnus, it is incumbent upon us to continue to work hard and passionately to continue the legacy of those that came before us through our time, talents, and other resources.

