

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

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## 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

Review's Editor-in-Chief. I know this upcoming year will teach me invaluable legal writing and editing skills, managerial skills, and help me better understand a variety of legal issues and trends. I expect it to be challenging, but also immensely rewarding.

I also am excited about my internship with the Southeast Wisconsin Professional Baseball District. Arranged by the Institute, this internship allowed me cultivate my passion for baseball, and to dive into facility finance, operation, and management. More important, Professor Anderson considered my specific interests when placing me in this internship.

Finally, the network of individuals that students have access to is truly great. These individuals are employed in a variety of areas and fields, but are always willing to speak with students whether it is at an informal lunch meeting or during the annual sports law conferences. Each event I attend helps me to realize just how much this program has meant to Marquette Law School graduates in their personal and professional development. I also understand more and more that the success of the program is due not only to the continued support of the alumni, but to the continued hard work of Professors Anderson and Mitten. I feel fortunate for the time I have spent in the program.



Nick Walls

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## **My Sports Law Experience at Marquette University Law School**

By **Nick Walls** (L'10), President, Marquette University Law School, Sports Law Society.

As a first-year student arriving at Marquette University Law School, I was a little overwhelmed, and I was not quite sure what direction I would take. I had heard about the Sports Law program but it was more of a vague concept than anything concrete. Fortunately, I got involved with the Sports Law program right away and did not stop. I am now a third year student with the prospect of graduation on the horizon. As a result of being involved with the Sports Law program, the unsure and overwhelming feeling I had as a first year student has been replaced with direction and purpose.

As I mentioned earlier, sports law was a vague concept to me at first, and I was not sure how it would apply in a classroom setting. Through the various sports law courses I have taken one thing has become very clear; sports law is not a specific discipline, rather it encompasses a number of different legal disciplines. It ranges from constitutional and tort law in a college or high school setting, to contract and property law in the professional setting. Beyond the classroom, I have also become involved in the Sports Law Society, which is the social arm of the Sports Law program that is run by students. In its own way, the Society helped me grow as a sports law student. It allowed me to feel comfortable around my classmates and professors, which quelled any apprehension I had towards pursuing sports law. Currently, I am the president of the Sports Law Society, and I hope to help have that same effect on this year's 1L class.

The National Sports Law Institute is another aspect of sports law at Marquette University Law School. It is unique in that it is a sports law organization directly associated with a top law school. The benefit of that unique attribute is that Marquette University Law School is the epicenter of developments within sports and the law. I had underestimated the breadth and depth of the program before I began school here but have since began to grasp the caliber of people the Institute attracts. Just this last semester one of my sports law classes had the opportunity to hear Major League Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig guest lecture on four separate occasions. Additionally, with the Institute located right here at our law