

Editor's Note

First, the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Legal Aspects of Sport (JLAS)* would like to pay its respects to Dr. Herb Appenzeller, who passed away on January 5, 2018. His contributions to the Sport and Recreation Law Association (SRLA) and the fields of sport and recreation law were substantial, and the Editorial Board would like to dedicate this issue to his memory and legacy.

As for this issue, it's an exciting one because it is the first open-access issue for *JLAS*. The move to open access should set *JLAS* up for greater success by increasing access and citations for the premier journal for sports law research. The issue is also exciting because of the tremendous research contributions included therein.

Specifically, the issue includes a fascinating examination on the potential for implementing promotion and relegation in U.S. Soccer, a topic that has drawn more attention since the U.S. Men's National Team failed to qualify for the 2018 World Cup. Steven A. Bank is an incredible legal scholar and *JLAS* is honored to publish his research on such a relevant topic. Also included is an article by the leading voice on combat sports law, Jason J. Cruz. His contribution to this issue involves antitrust law and combat sports and is a must-read for those of us who study antitrust law.

Additionally, there are three articles concerning sports gambling, and each one was written by noted experts on the subject. Alicia Jessop, a renowned sports law expert who has published articles in the *Huffington Post*, *Forbes*, and the *Washington Post*, uses the example of the 20th century securities industry as an argument for federal regulation of 21st century daily fantasy sports. John Holden, a scholar who I consider to be one of the rising stars in the field of sports law, examines the origins of the inclusion of the fantasy sports exemption in proposed statutes pre-dating the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006. His expertise on this subject makes him stand out as one of the more insightful commentators on the legalization of sports betting. And speaking of leading experts on sports gambling, no conversation would be complete without mention of Ryan M. Rodenberg, who is arguably *the* most respected voice on the subject. Dr. Rodenberg's article in this issue combines research on sports gambling with a discussion on the value of amicus briefs in sports law. In fact, his contribution to this issue includes an amicus brief that he wrote for the Supreme Court of the United States.

Sports law is a niche field and this limits citations, particularly for research on important, but rarely examined, topics. Traditional legal scholarship on sports topics is normative in that it aims to influence judges, lawyers, and legislators to reform or interpret existing law in a way that makes society more just. For this reason, quality legal research has the potential to produce impact that extends beyond mere citation in other research studies. The force of well-developed legal arguments is felt by its readership, including judicial clerks, lawyers, judges, and legislators. And amicus briefs, in particular, provide legal researchers with a



direct line to the judiciary through which experts in our field can persuade those who determine how sports should be regulated through the courts.

Please consider this issue to be more than *just* a dedication to Dr. Appenzeller; view it as a call to follow in his footsteps. In doing so, make your own legacies in our exciting sub-discipline of law and contribute regularly to our flagship journal. Also, never let those who undervalue sports law scholarship hold you back. While recognition from academic communities in law, business, and sport management is important to our field's growth, the value of respect from other disciplines pales in comparison to the value of your perspective and its potential to change sport for the better. The extant literature is littered with sport research that is largely ignored by practitioners, but is well-cited by other scholars. What sport needs is more legal research. Dr. Appenzeller knew this, and so should you.

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