

BOOK REVIEW

SPORTS LAW

Adam Epstein

[Clifton Park, NY: Delmar Learning, West Legal Studies, 2003]

www.WestLegalStudies.com

xxi + 310 pages [\$50.95 U. S. (soft cover)]

ISBN 0-7668-2324-5

Sports Law, by Adam Epstein, is a refreshing and needed addition to the existing library of available texts for undergraduate and graduate students studying sport law. The 310 page text includes the following 12 chapters: (1) sports agents, (2) sports contracts, (3) sports torts, (4) sports crimes, (5) Title IX and other women's issues, (6) disabilities and sports, (7) drugs and sports, (8) international sports issues, (9) antitrust and labor issues in sports, (10) intellectual property issues in sports, (11) alternative dispute resolution in sports, and (12) religion in sport. The following review identifies four primary attributes of Epstein's text, *Sports Law*.

1. DISCUSSION OF PROFESSIONAL SPORTS AND RELATED LEGAL ISSUES IN A READER FRIENDLY, SUCCINCT MANNER.

In my judgment, existing sport law texts fall on one of two ends of a continuum. Texts either tend to be very risk management oriented and tailored to the nonlawyer professor (e.g., Appenzeller, Clements, Cotten and Wolohan). Or, texts tend to be very focused on the collegiate and professional sport industry and tailored to the law professor teaching in a law school environment (e.g., Yasser, Wong).

Epstein's book may be considered sparse in comparison to the more dense books edited or authored by, for example, Cotten, Wolohan (675 pages), Yasser et al. (963 pages) or Wong (807 pages). However, Epstein's text is extremely concise and reader friendly. The text is particularly appealing to the professor who wants to provide sport management students with the basics of complicated issues without getting bogged down in the more sophisticated and difficult legal concepts associated with, for example, antitrust law.

Epstein's writing is fluent and written in a manner that both the nonlawyer professor and the non-law school, sport management student can read and understand; yet allowing the professor to go beyond the more simplistic (yet albeit important) risk management concepts.

2. A "TEACHING TEXT," I.E., HELPFUL TEACHING AIDS FOR THE PROFESSOR AND STUDY AIDS FOR THE STUDENT.

Each chapter in Epstein's *Sports Law* text concludes with a key terms, additional cases, and review questions. The "key terms" listing provides both the professor and the student with an overview of concepts covered, providing a foundation for the development of multiple choice, matching, and/or essay questions. The "additional cases" identified which are related and important to the chapter content enable both the professor and the student desiring a further examination and understanding of the legal issues to quickly narrow their own research efforts. I particularly enjoyed the "review questions" section and found the questions excellent to use as a catalyst in generating interactive class discussions.

3. COHERENT, FLUENT WRITING STYLE THAT INCORPORATES THE BASIC LEGAL ELEMENTS IN A CLEAR, CONCISE MANNER.

Adam Epstein is a very good writer. He has a clear vision of the most basic, yet important, concepts to which the non-law school student studying sport law should be exposed. For example, the chapter on sports contracts distinguishes between personal service contracts and product related contracts. The chapter also includes (a) definitions and sample clauses, (b) discussion of damages and remedies for breach, application to professional sports, collegiate sports, and the health club industry, (c) a sample contract and (d) the chosen legal case.

Epstein's own educational background (including a B. A., M.B.A., and J. D.), coupled with his impressive professional/practitioner experience (including, for example, his roles as a professor, sports agent, and mediator), equips him with the wisdom required to shift through infinite legal issues and identify only the most basic, yet profound, concepts for a solid understanding of key legal concepts. Furthermore, he addresses how these legal concepts can influence the sport industry practitioner. As mentioned above, the size of Epstein's book reflects his ability to be thorough, yet succinct; providing the student with a text that is reasonably priced and one in which the information contained in the book can be realistically covered in the duration of a single semester.

4. WELL RESEARCHED; INCLUSION OF FUNDAMENTAL
HISTORICAL LEGISLATION AND CASE LAW COMBINED WITH THE
MOST CURRENT LEGISLATION AND CASE LAW.

Epstein uses his own academic background and training to poignantly incorporate historical foundations leading to current legislation and case law interpretations. For example, the chapter on intellectual property highlights the role of the federal constitution, the original copyright Act of 1909, and the patent laws enacted in 1870. On the other end of the time continuum so to speak, Epstein incorporates the more recent Anti-cybersquatting Consumer Protect Act of 1999. Similarly, the antitrust chapter includes a brief discussion of the Sherman Act (1890), the Clayton Act (1914), the Norris-LaGuardia Act (1932), and the National Labor Relations Act (1935) while also including discussion of more recent case law applications. It is apparent from reading this text that Epstein understands the law, knows the law, and has practiced the law. Epstein's writing ability, coupled with his academic knowledge and accomplishments, has enabled him to produce an excellent textbook that will have a lasting impact on the sport management profession.

To summarize, this well researched, yet concise, Epstein text fills a niche for those professors desiring to provide students with a well-rounded exposure to legal issues influencing the sport industry. He succeeds in delivering a content-rich "user-friendly" text for both the professor and student.

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