



Sports Lawyers Association

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For Immediate Release

SPORTS LAWYERS ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES 41ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Sports Law Professionals Will Meet in Baltimore May 14-16th at the SLA's Largest Gathering of the Year

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RESTON, Va. (March 25, 2015) – The Sports Lawyers Association (SLA), the leading organization of professionals dedicated to the practicing and teaching of sports law in the United States, and one of the leading such organizations in the world, will host its 41st annual conference at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront in Baltimore, MD from May 14-16th. The SLA conference is the preeminent gathering of sports law professionals and will present a speaker program featuring leading experts and practitioners spanning all aspects of the industry.

The conference highlights include: 25 panels and breakout sessions featuring expert analysis and debate of top legal issues facing the sports industry, a presentation honoring the 2015 Philanthropy Initiative recipient and the announcement of the Law Student Writing Competition winners.

“The Sports Lawyers Association is looking forward to hosting our annual conference this year in Baltimore,” said Glenn Wong, Professor, University of Massachusetts Amherst and SLA President. “Now, more than ever the sports industry confronts a wide range of interesting and complex legal issues. Our Conference Committee, led by chair Gabe Feldman and vice chairs Bobby Hacker and Jeff Benz, has done a fantastic job of assembling an outstanding group of accomplished sports law practitioners to discuss legal trends and interpret the major challenges of the day that impact the global sports business.”

“We are thrilled to present an all-star lineup of panelists at this year’s Sports Lawyers Association Conference,” said Gabe Feldman, Paul and Abram B. Barron Professor of Law, Tulane Law School, Director, Tulane Sports Law Program and SLA Conference Chair. “We have a diverse set of panels covering a wide array of domestic and international sports law topics that will offer something for everyone—whether you are a seasoned sports lawyer or agent or a student or young attorney looking to break into the industry. We are also excited to provide a variety of networking opportunities at the Conference.”

Gary R. Roberts, Dean Emeritus & Gerald L. Bepko Professor of Law, Indiana University will host the first general session of the conference providing a lecture featuring an overview of the past year’s developments in domestic and international sports law. Some highlighted panels include:

Protecting the Game: Legal Issues Facing Teams and Leagues When They Discipline Players and Owners

(Moderator-Stephanie Vardavas, Founder & Principal, Irenic, LLC)

Tipping Point or Bump in the Road? What the Latest Legal Challenges Mean for the Future of College Athletics and the NCAA

(Moderator-Naima Stevenson Starks, Assistant General Counsel, NCAA)

From Legal Policy to Practice: Diversity and the Changing Landscape of Sports

(Moderator-Mori Taheripour, Managing Director, CWTK Global Advisors)

The Unique Legal Ethics of Sports Negotiations Examined Through Mock Negotiations of Real Sports Issues

(Moderator-Robert A. DuPuy, Adjunct Professor, Cornell Law School)

Sports Gambling and Daily Fantasy Sports: Cardinal Sin or Wave of the Future?

(Moderator-Ryan M. Rodenberg, Assistant Professor, Florida State University)

The Future of Television Sports: Pick a Platform

(Moderator-Robert A. Hacker, Vice President Business and Legal Affairs, FOX Sports)

Hot Topics in International and Domestic Soccer: Transfer Issues, Contract Negotiations and More

(Moderator-Jeffrey G. Benz, Attorney, Arbitrator, Mediator, BenzADR/Benz Law Group)

The 2015 SLA Conference Committee is chaired by Feldman with vice-chairs Benz and Hacker. Conference registration, agenda, hotel information and other details are available at www.sportslaw.org (Agenda is subject to change). Please follow the Sports Lawyers Association on Twitter @sportslawyers where conference updates and panel highlights will be posted using hashtag #SLAC15. Please direct media inquiries and credential requests to Sports Lawyers Association Conference Media Contact: Kathy Connors, KMC Consulting, kathyconnors@kmcconsults.net 703-980-8328 @KMCConsults