Being a Sports Lawyer

This article deals with the scope and requirements of sports lawyers, their educational qualifications, professional standards, role and involvement with clients, as well as brand-building strategies. According to recent statistics, a sports lawyer has good career prospects.

The role of a sports lawyer is to represent sports persons in various aspects of their profession. An athlete or sportsman requires assistance in understanding the terms of their contracts and endorsements, understanding the different provisions of agreements in simple language, through the confusing elements of legal terminology. The sports lawyers are carving out a niche for themselves in the field of sports as they are coming to realize that this is the place where they can earn high salaries.

Educational Qualifications

A four year-undergraduate course is a must to enter a law school. You can major in any subject. An aspiring sports lawyer should include a basic business-related course, like marketing or finance, in their academia for understanding the commercial aspect of the business. Passing the LSAT, which is treated as a benchmark of legal aptitude during the final year of undergraduate studies is a must if you want entrance to better universities. Admission to the law school will be determined by the impression created by your bachelor’s degree records.

The sports lawyers need to pursue their studies in sports and entertainment law from a well-recognized institution or university. Most major universities like the UCLA, Marquette University and others of their ilk offer courses on sports law, legal procedures, and associated ethical concerns.

The moment you become an intern after completion of the course, you get a chance to explore administrative issues and other relevant topics. Your concern should be clearing the bar examination in Florida and California, places where clients are based. Hence, if you enjoy sports and are interested in legal procedures, you can negotiate with the people in power and even influence their career. Experience in good writing is also beneficial.

Roping in Clients

When you enter the sports law practice, you need to carve out your niche, at first by working with players from the minor league or junior levels. As a young lawyer, there will be mostly budding faces and newbies looking for you to aid them professionally. The job of a sports lawyer is to deal with contracts, examine the written agreement on the endorsements and act from the perspective of the client in the civil court trials when required. Slowly with experience, the spectrum of your clientele will become absolutely diversified with the top names in the industry and veteran players knocking on your door for service. Once you’ve become an established sports lawyer, you’ll be required to maintain a catalog of your new clients for generating a long-standing commercial rapport for future reference.

Employment Outlook

The average annual salary of a sports lawyer is a minimum of $75,000 by lower tier representations. In fact, you can earn something around the figure of $150,000 by signing new clients. Generally, a law firm prevents successful lawyers and attorneys from competition by handing out generous rewards. A sports attorney can enhance his or her standing through references and word of mouth. For instance, basketball, football or baseball players who are already on their clientele can recommend them to their friends and co-players. This is a motivation for the sports law professional to work on behalf of their client in the hope of a bigger and better contract.

In conclusion it must be mentioned that since this is the world of the rich and the famous, there are plenty of complications fraught in this field, like copyright infringement, plagiarism and others. Hence, you must be extremely well-versed in all the legal clauses and sub-clauses to be able to duly represent your client and be successful in your career as a sports lawyer.

Please see the following articles for more information about sports and entertainment law:

- Entertainment Law - Glamor By Association?
- Sports Law
- Sports Attorneys and Contracts