

PROFESSIONAL SPORTS

and the

LAW

Top Twenty Law Firms Serving the Professional Sports Team Industry Offer Experience and Passion

What follows below is a semi-exhaustive list of the top 20 law firms serving the professional sports team industry. Listed in alphabetical order, the entries range from boutique in size to massive. Suffice to say that between them they have represented almost every organization and league at one point or another.

While they are different in size and specialty, what these practice groups have in common would make any law firm a success – experience in the field and passion for the work.

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld

Akin Gump works with some of the most widely recognized names in sports, including professional teams, leagues and organizations. With renowned lawyers helming this impressive practice, including a MiLB vice president, the firm advises clients in critical high-profile L&E matters, complex commercial disputes, internal and regulatory investigations, and transactions.

Practice Leaders:

- Dan Nash—<https://www.akingump.com/en/lawyers-advisors/daniel-l-nash.html>
- Stan Brand—<https://www.akingump.com/en/lawyers-advisors/stanley-m-brand.html>
- Steve Ross—<https://www.akingump.com/en/lawyers-advisors/steven-r-ross.html>
- Contact Info:
www.akingump.com
Dan Nash
dnash@akingump.com
202.887.4067

Andresen & Associates

Working with teams, leagues, conferences, vendors, venues and a host of other entities within and around the world of professional and amateur sports, our skilled attorneys provide cost-effective services to clients facing a host of legal needs, including transactional matters ranging from franchise acquisition and venue lease agreements, to player contracts and licensing/sponsorship agreements; representing clients in litigation and arbitration proceedings; assisting clients with entity structure, formation and maintenance; assisting clients with trademark and other intellectual property/branding issues; and advising clients in a wide array of ancillary business matters.

Practice Leader:

- Scott Andresen—<http://andresenlawfirm.com/attorneys/andresen/>
- Contact Info:
<http://andresenlawfirm.com/>
- Scott Andresen
scott@andresenlawfirm.com
773.572.6049

Arent Fox

Arent Fox boasts one of the most experienced sports law practices in the country. The group regularly advises clients on a wide array of issues, including acquisitions and sales of teams, property and event companies, financings, media and technology agreements, intellectual property matters, and naming rights and other sponsorship transactions.

Practice Leaders:

- Rich Brand—<http://www.arentfox.com/people/richard-brand#.VxeqQ4-cGZ8>
- Maidie Oliveau – <http://www.arentfox.com/people/maidie-oliveau#.Vxeqk4-cGZ8>

- Rich Gale – <http://www.arentfox.com/people/richard-gale#.VxequY-cGZ8>
- Contact info:
www.arentfox.com
Rich Brand
rbrand@arentfox.com
415.757.5507 / 202.857.6427

Covington

Covington's dedication to the business of sports runs broad and deep. Our work spans the industry—from league and association structuring, governance, and rule-making matters to acquisitions of franchises or other sports related businesses; from launches of single sport and regional sports networks to groundbreaking Internet and mobile media agreements; from the formation of new e-sport start-up ventures to multi-billion-dollar stadium financings, Covington has played a central role in headline-making sports matters for decades.

Practice Leaders:

- Jeremy Spector—<https://www.cov.com/en/professionals/s/jeremy-spector>
- Bruce S. Wilson – <https://www.cov.com/en/professionals/w/bruce-wilson>
- Gregg Levy – <https://www.cov.com/en/professionals/l/gregg-levy>
- Contact info:
www.cov.com
Jeremy Spector
jspector@cov.com
202.662.5639 Washington +1 202 662 5639 202 662 5639 202 662 5639 202 662 5639

Cozen O'Connor

Cozen O'Connor has a significant sports law practice and decades of collective experience in the sports law area. Our attorneys represent clients working in all sectors of the industry, including professional and amateur teams and organizations, team owners and executives, professional leagues, professional and amateur athletes, agents and agencies, venues and arena management companies, corporate sponsors, and sporting equipment manufacturers.

Practice Leader:

- Adam J. Schlatner—<https://www.cozen.com/people/bios/schlatner-adam>
- Key Contact:
www.cozen.com
Adam J. Schlatner
aschlatner@cozen.com
212.883.2236

Foley & Lardner

Foley's Sports Industry team understands the business of sports and its many legal challenges. We can help clients navigate the multitude of opportunities and complexities innate to this marketplace, resulting in the achievement of one goal: to successfully prepare and position their businesses to maximize growth.

Practice Leaders:

- Irwin Raij, Chair—<https://www.foley.com/irwin-p-raij/>
- Mary K Braza, Chair—<https://www.foley.com/mary-k-braza/>
- Kevin Schulz, Co-Chair—<https://www.foley.com/kevin-r-schulz/>
- Contact Info:
www.foley.com
Mary K Braza
mbraza@foley.com
414.297.5505
Irwin Raij
iraij@foley.com
212.338.3591

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher

Our attorneys provide advice on the most complex sports-industry matters, from the purchase and sale of U.S. and non-U.S. professional teams to precedent-setting litigation. We represent clients in professional and amateur sports-related matters, including individual teams, sports facilities, athletic associations, athletes, financial institutions, tele-

vision networks, sponsors and municipalities.

Practice Leaders:

- Andrew Tulumello—<http://www.gibsondunn.com/Lawyers/atulumello>
- Maurice Suh—<http://www.gibsondunn.com/Lawyers/msuh>
- Richard Birns—www.gibsondunn.com/lawyers/rbirns
- Ronald Kirk—www.gibsondunn.com/lawyers/rkirk
- Contact info:
www.gibsondunn.com
Andrew Tulumello
ATulumello@gibsondunn.com
202.955.8657
Maurice Suh
MSuh@gibsondunn.com
213.229.7260
Richard Birns
RBirns@gibsondunn.com
212.351.4032
Ronald Kirk
RKirk@gibsondunn.com
214.698.3295

Goldberg Segalla

Our skilled attorneys help sports franchises, team owners, professional athletes, and leagues tackle a host of unique legal needs and challenges, including drafting, negotiating, and executing contracts (including endorsement and licensing agreements); representing clients in litigation and arbitration matters; protecting publicity and privacy rights; and advising clients in other business ventures.

Practice Leader:

- Joseph M. Hanna—<http://www.goldbergsegalla.com/attorneys/joseph-m-hanna>
- Contact Info:
www.goldbergsegalla.com
Joseph M. Hanna
jhanna@goldbergsegalla.com
716.556.5400

Greenberg Glusker Fields Claman & Machtinger

Greenberg Glusker's attorneys represent numerous sports figures including high-profile NFL and MLB athletes, as well as Hall of Fame NBA and NHL players. Our attorneys have an exceptional depth of knowledge in the sports industry, with a comprehensive practice offering a wide range of services to clients in California and throughout the U.S. We have particular experience handling the

financing and construction of new stadiums and sports arenas.

Practice Leaders:

- Bob Baradaran—www.greenbergglusker.com/people/attorneys/Baradaran
- Ricardo P. Cestero—www.greenbergglusker.com/people/attorneys/Cestero
- Pierce O'Donnell—www.greenbergglusker.com/people/attorneys/o-donnell-pierce
- Contact Info:
www.greenbergglusker.com
Bob Baradaran
BBaradaran@greenbergglusker.com
310.785.6829
Ricardo P. Cestero
RCestero@greenbergglusker.com
310.785.6809
Pierce O'Donnell
PODonnell@greenbergglusker.com
310.201.7558

Havkins Rosenfeld Ritzert & Varriale

Our attorneys are at the forefront of providing counseling and representation to various sports and entertainment entities, venue owners and operators, recreation facilities, amusement parks, and camps. Our representation extends to claims for premises and spectator/guest liability as well as claims by and against professional and amateur athletes. We also work with our clients and their insurers to develop risk prevention programs, and we regularly provide updates on recent trends and offer on-site seminars on emerging legal issues.

Practice Leaders:

- Carla Varriale—<http://hrrvlaw.com/attorneys/varriale.php>
- Farng-Yeong Foo—<http://hrrvlaw.com/attorneys/foo.php>
- Shawn Schatzle—<http://hrrvlaw.com/attorneys/schatzle.php>
- Contact Info:
www.hrrvlaw.com
- Carla Varriale
Carla.Varriale@hrrvlaw.com
646.747.5115.

Herrick

For more than four decades, Herrick's attorneys have helped the world's greatest sports entities stay ahead of the game. Our roster of clients includes world-class leagues and teams, owners and executives, agencies and sports networks, financial institutions, investment banks, investors, rights owners and holders, licensors and licensees, sponsors and advertisers, event promoters and technology providers, museums and universities, and concessionaires and auction houses. Many of the industry's transformative concepts — including regional sports broadcasting, pay-per-view telecasts and premium stadium experiences — were brought to life by Herrick clients, who relied on our guidance from idea to execution.

Practice Leaders:

- Irwin A. Kishner—www.herrick.com/irwin-a-kishner/
- Daniel A. Etna—www.herrick.com/daniel-a-etna/
- John R. Goldman—www.herrick.com/john-r-goldman/
- Jared F. Bartie—www.herrick.com/jared-f-bartie/
- Contact Info:
www.Herrick.com
Irwin A. Kishner
ikishner@herrick.com
212.592.1435
Daniel A. Etna
detna@herrick.com
212.592.1557
John R. Goldman
jgoldman@herrick.com
212.592.1460
Jared F. Bartie
jbartie@herrick.com
212.592.1635

Jackson Lewis

Jackson Lewis' attorneys are uniquely situated to serve the diverse needs of sports and entertainment employers. Whether we are advising colleges and universities, professional sports franchises, agents, coaches, large convention centers, theaters or media entities, we combine our industry knowledge with our focus on compliance and preventive counseling. Where prevention is not enough, our attorneys vigorously defend sports and entertainment industry clients in cases of alleged non-compliance and in numerous

areas of civil litigation.

Practice Leaders:

- Gregg Clifton—<http://www.jacksonlewis.com/people/gregg-e-clifton>
- Paul V. Kelly—<http://www.jacksonlewis.com/people/paul-v-kelly>
- Contact Info:
www.jacksonlewis.com
Gregg Clifton
Gregg.Clifton@jacksonlewis.com
602.714.7044

Loeb & Loeb

Our attorneys combine corporate, entertainment, finance, intellectual property, and litigation acumen to offer a dynamic service platform for a wide range of clients focused on the sports sector. Our interdisciplinary team works together to address the complex legal issues facing the sports industry today.

Practice Leaders:

- Arash Khalili—www.loeb.com/attorney-arashkhalili
- Douglas Masters—www.loeb.com/attorney-douglasmasters
- Brian Socolow—www.loeb.com/attorney-briansocolow
- Scott Zolke—www.loeb.com/attorney-scottzolke
- Contact Info:
www.loeb.com
Arash Khalili
akhalili@loeb.com
310.282.2282
Douglas Masters
dmasters@loeb.com
312.464.3144
Brian Socolow
bsocolow@loeb.com
212.407.4872
Scott Zolke
szolke@loeb.com
310.282.2299

Mintz Levin

Mintz Levin's attorneys understand the business concerns and legal complexities associated with sports and our reputation is based on client-centered service. Our Sports Law Practice Group brings a wide range of experience and expertise to matters for professional teams, sports facilities, intercollegiate conferences and athletic departments, and sports apparel companies.

Practice Leaders:

- Keith Carroll—<https://www.mintz.com/professionals/detail/name/keith-p-carroll>
- Bob Bodian—<https://www.mintz.com/professionals/detail/name/robert-i-bodian>
- Tyrone Thomas—<https://www.mintz.com/professionals/detail/name/tyrone-p-thomas>
- Contact Info:
www.mintz.com
Keith Carroll, Practice Chair
KPCarroll@mintz.com
617.348.4425

Polsinelli

Our attorneys focus their practice on recovering insurance benefits from reluctant insurance companies. We have represented institutional policyholders across the country in complex business disputes with insurers, and in that capacity, and have successfully secured hundreds of millions of dollars of defense and indemnity payments for clients under a variety of insurance lines.

Practice Leader:

- Richard Giller—<http://www.polsinelli.com/professionals/rgiller>
- Contact Info:
www.polsinelli.com
Richard Giller
rgiller@polsinelli.com
310.203.5373

Sheppard Mullin

Sheppard Mullin's attorneys are uniquely positioned to address the complex and dynamic needs of our sports industry clientele. Our sports practice offers the expertise necessary to provide full service legal counsel to owners, teams, leagues, governing bodies, facility operators, key rights holders, advertising companies, sponsors and others involved in sports-related transactions or disputes.

Practice Leaders:

- Tim Epp—www.sheppardmullin.com/tepp
- Kelly Crabbe—www.sheppardmullin.com/kcrabb
- Contact Info:
www.sheppardmullin.com
Tim Epp
tepp@sheppardmullin.com
714.424.2892
Kelly Crabbe
kcrabb@sheppardmullin.com
213.617.4228

Skadden

Skadden's leading sports law practice has successfully handled high-stakes matters for major sports leagues involving antitrust, corporate, labor, league governance, intellectual property and mass torts issues. Skadden has also represented major league teams and owners in player disputes, mergers, acquisitions, stadium financings, venue leases, sponsorship agreements, corporate financings and project finance work.

Practice Leaders:

- Shepard Goldfein—<http://www.skadden.com/professionals/shepard-goldfein>
- Jeffrey Mishkin – <http://www.skadden.com/professionals/jeffrey-mishkin>
- Contact Info:
Shepard Goldfein
shepard.goldfein@skadden.com
212.735.3610
Jeffrey Mishkin
jeffrey.mishkin@skadden.com
212.735.3230

Thompson Coburn

Thompson Coburn's attorneys handle legal work on a variety of matters at the professional sports level, including stadium finance, real estate leases, vendor agreements, personnel issues, and copyright/trademark litigation. Drawing on our significant work for pro teams and sports entities, we craft legal strategies that reach an organization's desired result with minimal conflict among the parties.

Practice Leader:

- Bob Wallace—<http://www.thompsoncoburn.com/people/find-a-professional/robert-wallacejr.aspx>
- Contact Info:
www.thompsoncoburn.com
Bob Wallace
rwallace@thompsoncoburn.com
314.552.6509

WilmerHale

Our attorneys have handled a variety of matters for professional sports teams and leagues ranging from ethics and disciplinary inquiries to Department of Justice antitrust investigations. Through the years, the firm has also represented its sports clients in a wide variety of matters including franchise acquisitions, purchase and sale of ownership interests, league governance disputes, ownership and control of intellectual property, and litigation.

Practice Leader:

- David Donovan—https://www.wilmerhale.com/david_donovan/
- Contact Info:
www.wilmerhale.com
David Donovan
david.donovan@wilmerhale.com
202.663.6868

Winstead

Our attorneys represent clients in high-profile, complex transactions. The firm's work includes representation on new stadiums for the Atlanta Falcons, Dallas Cowboys, and Houston Texans, stadium renovations and development for Texas A&M and the Hamilton Tiger-Cats, financing for Circuit of the Americas and Super Bowl Host and Bid Committee representation.

Practice Leaders:

- Ken Kopf—www.winstead.com/People/Ken-Kopf
- Denis Braham—www.winstead.com/People/Denis-Braham
- Paul Wageman—www.winstead.com/People/Paul-Wageman
- Contact Info:
www.winstead.com
Ken Kopf
kkopf@winstead.com
214.745.5315 ●