Sports Law

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Moderator

Onye Ikwuakor is a partner at Severin Werly LLC, a boutique sports law firm located in Nashville, TN. He handles litigation, contract drafting/negotiation, and other legal issues for clients in the sports and entertainment industries. He is a nationally recognized sports legal expert that has been quoted in ESPN, The New York Times, Bleacher Report, The Hollywood Reporter, and others.

Prior to founding Severin Werly, Daniel worked at two Am Law 100 law firms in Chicago where he represented a wide variety of corporate clients including professional sports teams, leagues, and athletes.

Daniel is a frequent speaker and writer on legal issues that impact the sports industry and the practices of law. He is the Founder and Managing Editor of the Sports Law website TheWallBroncos.com, the only sports-industry legal blog devoted to the legal and business issues that arise in the world of professional sports. Daniel has also contributed to Forbes and The White Bronco as a regular contributor. Daniel has been named to The 50 Most Influential Sports Business Accounts of 2016. He is also the co-host of the sports legal podcast, Contract Detrimental.

Daniel is the current Sports Division Vice Chair of the ABA Forum on the Entertainment and Sports Industries.

Faculty

Onye Ikwuakor has served as in-house counsel for the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) since 2012, and as USADA’s Legal Affairs Director for Emerging & Pro Sports since 2017. In this role, Onye has primary responsibility for providing legal advice and oversight in support of USADA’s anti-doping and regulatory operations, including the adjudication of cases arising under USADA’s professional and combat sport anti-doping programs. Onye also serves as a point of contact for other USADA departments on a multitude of issues, including: enforcement, strategy, litigation, copyright, and trademark issues, human resource matters, and the creation and review of legal contracts executed by USADA.

Prior to joining USADA, Ikwuakor worked as a Litigation Associate in the Colorado Springs office of Bryan Cave LLP, where he primarily focused on right-to-compete and code of conduct matters for Olympic sport organizations. A graduate of Iowa State University, Ikwuakor went on to earn his J.D. from Stanford Law School in 2008. He is admitted to the Bar in California and Colorado, and in 2012, was named one of the Lawyers of the Year by Colorado Law Weekly for his work related to uncovering the U.S. Postal Service Cycling Team doping conspiracy. He is currently on the Standing Committee for the ABA Forum on the Entertainment and Sports Industries.

Faculty

Bobbi Sue Doyle-Hazard is Assistant General Counsel for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers (Bucs) where her practice area is quite generalized. Bobbi Sue started her career as General Counsel and Director of Human Resources for the family of life sciences companies under the New England Cryogenic Center (NECC) umbrella. In between NECC and the Bucs, she was associate corporate counsel for Granite Telecommunications, a billion dollar telecom company just outside Boston.

A graduate of the UMass Sport Management undergraduate program, and Penn State’s Dickinson School of Law, Bobbi Sue’s career path was anything but a straight line. After law school, she worked as a real estate paralegal, and soon got licensed as an attorney due to the economic crash. As an early adopter of Twitter (@BobbiHazard), she credits her usage of the platform for opening the doors that led to not just one of her positions but two (NECC and Bucs).

Bobbi Sue is a member of the Sports Lawyers Association (SLA), the Association of Corporate Counsel (ACC), Women in Sports and Events (WISE), and Women in Sports Law (WILS). She is a member of the bar association of both Pennsylvania and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, with both licenses suspended. She joined the Bucs in August 2012 and was named Assistant General Counsel in January 2015.

Bobbi Sue was diagnosed with depression and anxiety in her 20s in addition to being a small business owner and a mother of a small child. Bobbi Sue is a strong believer in sharing her story with the hope it helps others. Bobbi Sue is a strong believer in sharing her story with the hope it helps others. Bobbi Sue is launching a podcast, called Leveling the Playing Field, where she conducts casual, conversational interviews with women working in sports. You can follow the podcast on Twitter at @DFMPod for updates on its launch and upcoming episodes.
OVERVIEW

Sports Law

CAREER PATH

What was your career path into sports law?

DAY IN THE LIFE

What is a day in the life of an attorney working in sports law?
LOVE/HATE

• What do you love about working in sports law?
• What are some challenges you face?

TOP 3 SKILLS

What are the top 3 skills someone needs to work in sports law?

SURPRISE

What would people be surprised to know about working as a sports attorney?
ABA INVOLVEMENT

How has ABA involvement boosted your career?

Questions?

THANK YOU
Upcoming Career Choice Series Webinars

- Friday, July 28, 2017, 1-1:30pm ET, *JAG*
- Friday, August 4, 2017, 1-1:30pm ET, *Judicial Law Clerks*
- Friday, August 25, 2017, 1-1:30pm ET, *Lawyer Professional Responsibility and Loss Prevention*

Upcoming Career Advice Series Webinar

- Friday, August 11, 2017, 1-2pm ET, *How to Become a Freelance Lawyer: Rates, Contracts, Legal Ethics and More*
- Friday, September 8, 2017, 1-2pm ET, *Choosing a Destination: Proactively Managing Your Career as a Midlevel Associate*
Chair: Mark Weber, Harvard Law School, Cambridge
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