



# Sports Lawyers Association®

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## Sports Lawyers Association 43rd Annual Conference Program Announced

**Reston, VA. – March 22, 2017** - The Sports Lawyers Association (@SportsLawyers), the leading organization of sports lawyers and sports industry professionals in the United States, and one of the leading sports law professional organizations worldwide, announced the lineup for its 43rd Annual Conference today, which will take place May 18-20 at the Denver Marriott City Center in Denver, Colorado.

"The 2017 SLA Conference will address important 21st century sports law and business issues, including sports governance, ethics, media rights, crisis management, and dispute resolution, in an interactive discussion format in which leading sports lawyers, industry professionals, and law professors will participate," said SLA President Matt Mitten. It will consist of 28 panels and breakout sessions featuring expert analysis and debate of contemporary issues facing the sports industry; networking opportunities; presentation of the Michael Weiner SLA Award of Excellence to Scott Blackmun, CEO of the United States Olympic Committee; and recognition of the 2017 SLA Philanthropy Initiative recipients and Law Student Writing Competition winners.

"Denver is the home to many major sports venues and to teams in all of the major professional sports leagues, with the U.S. Olympic Committee and many sport national governing bodies in nearby Colorado Springs," said 2017 SLA Conference Chair and Brooklyn Sports & Entertainment Executive VP of Business Affairs and Chief Legal & Administrative Officer Jeff Gewirtz. "We are thrilled to be able to bring our annual Conference to a city with such a robust sports legal and business community."

### Plenary panel discussions including:

- **Players Association Executive Directors Forum - Invited panelists include: Tony Clark**, Executive Director, MLBPA, **Donald M. Fehr**, Executive Director, NHLPA, **Michele Roberts**, Executive Director, NBPA, **DeMaurice F. Smith**, Executive Director, NFLPA.

- **League General Counsel Forum - Invited panelists include: Adolpho A. Birch III**, Senior Vice President of Labor Policy & League Affairs, NFL, **William Daly**, Deputy Commissioner, NHL, **Daniel Halem**, Chief Legal Officer, MLB; **Rick Buchanan**, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, NBA; and **William Z. Ordower**, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, MLS.

- **New Models for Sports TV Distribution: Respect the Fine Print - Invited panelists include: Richard L. Brand**, Partner and Chair, Sports Practice Group, Arent Fox LLP; **Jennifer Flynn**, Senior Vice President - Business, MLB Advanced Media; **Brett T. Goodman**, General Counsel, NBC Sports Group.

- **NCAA and Conference Governance and Institutional Control: Who has jurisdiction? - Invited panelists include: Philip P. DiStefano**, Chancellor, University of Colorado Boulder; **Rod McDavis**, Recent Past-President, Ohio University; **Kevin Sweeney**, Vice Chair, Corporate & Transactional Group, Polsinelli PC.

### Other topics including:

- Team and Venue Acquisitions & Financings
- Global Sport Anti-Doping Update
- Turning and Turning in the Widening Gyre: The Ethical Conundrums of Sports Practice
- TMZ Posted What!?! Sports Crisis Management in the Age of Social Media
- Overview of Recent Legal Developments in Sports
- eSports Legal update
- Combat Sports: MMA and Boxing Legal & Regulatory Developments
- Court of Arbitration for Sport Update
- Gooaaalll Futbol and the World Legal Order
- Breaking into the Sports Law Industry

Conference registration, a complete agenda, hotel information, and other details are available at [www.sportslaw.org](http://www.sportslaw.org) (subject to change). Please follow the Sports Lawyers Association on Twitter @SportsLawyers where Conference updates and panel discussion highlights will be posted using hashtag #SLAC17.

Please direct media inquiries and credential requests to Sports Lawyers Association Conference Media Contact: Brian Berger – [brian@brianbergerpr.com](mailto:brian@brianbergerpr.com) - 503.701.2215 – On Twitter @BrianBergerPR

### About Sports Lawyers Association:

The Sports Lawyers Association (SLA) is a non-profit, international, professional organization whose common goal is the understanding, advancement and ethical practice of sports law. There are approximately 1,800 current members: practicing lawyers, in-house counsel, law educators, law students, and other professionals with an interest in law relating to professional and amateur sports spanning the breadth of the entire sports industry. The Association's Annual Conference takes place every May, with the 43rd Annual Sports Lawyers Conference scheduled for May 18-20, 2017 in Denver, Colorado. Follow SLA online at [www.sportslaw.org](http://www.sportslaw.org), on Twitter @SportsLawyers and on Facebook at the Sports Lawyers Association page.