



**Sports Lawyers Association Announces
the Gold Crown Foundation and
Sports Business and Leadership Association
as Recipients of 2017 Philanthropy Contributions**
SLA Conference to be held May 18-20, 2017 in Denver, Colorado

Reston, VA. – April 19, 2017 – The Sports Lawyers Association (www.sportslaw.org), the leading organization of professionals dedicated to the practice and teaching of sports law in the United States, and one of the leading sports law professional organizations worldwide, announced **Gold Crown Foundation and Sports Business and Leadership Association** as recipients of **philanthropy contributions totaling \$30,000.00**. The contributions will be awarded on Friday, May 19 during the Sports Lawyers Association (SLA) Conference luncheon at the Denver Marriott City Center in Denver, Colorado.

The Sports Lawyers Association Philanthropy Committee reviews local organizations in the city of its annual conference and in conjunction with the SLA Board of Directors, selects its recipients based in large part on the organizations' work with youth through sport. The Gold Crown Foundation will receive \$25,000 toward its programming, and the Sports Business and Leadership Association will receive the remaining \$5000.

"On behalf of the Philanthropy Committee and the Sports Lawyers Association Board of Directors, we are excited to present our 2017 SLA philanthropic contribution to **Gold Crown Foundation** and **Sports Business and Leadership Association**," said Allison Rich, Senior Associate Director of Athletics/SWA, Princeton University and SLA Board Member and Philanthropy Committee Chair. "We take pride in our commitment to helping deserving non-profit organizations in the local communities we visit during our annual conference each year. We are pleased to make these donations and are delighted that the gifts will help support the terrific ongoing efforts of these organizations to educate and support underserved youth in the Denver area; giving those kids a chance to play sports and accrue all the associated benefits of that participation."

The **Gold Crown Foundation (<http://www.goldcrownfoundation.com/>)** is a Colorado nonprofit 501c3 that offers youth sports and education programs to nearly 25,000 boys and girls annually throughout Colorado and the surrounding states. Founded in 1986 by former Denver Nugget player and coach, Bill Hanzlik, and his business partner Ray Baker, Gold Crown Foundation's mission statement is "*Educating Youth and Community Through Sports and Enrichment.*" Through Basketball, Volleyball, Golf, Lacrosse, and Educational Programs, they teach youth life skills and grant almost \$100,000 in scholarships annually to kids ages 8-18. In 2016 they celebrated their 30th year, and are very proud of the significant impact they have had on youth and their communities across Colorado.

With the elimination of many middle school sports programs in Colorado, Gold Crown has looked to fill some of the void and create safe, educational and inspirational programs for middle school children in the area. They place an emphasis on providing opportunities for lower income participants, making scholarships available for those whose families cannot afford the registration fees. Also, in order to provide kids with safe and healthy sports opportunities, Gold Crown provides training on coaching techniques, injury prevention, nutrition, concussion awareness, and more to its hundreds of volunteer coaches and team administrators.

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"It was with great pleasure to learn the Sports Lawyers Association chose Gold Crown Foundation as its 2017 philanthropy contribution recipient," said Bill Hanzlik, Co-Founder & CEO of the Gold Crown Foundation. "This contribution will allow us to continue to build our scholarship program, which currently awards almost 100 thousand dollars in scholarships each year to the under-served in our community. Our commitment to "educate youth and community through sports and enrichment programs' will be further enhanced by this financial support."

The **Sports Business and Leadership Association (<http://nationalsbla.com/>)** is a non-profit organization for professionals working in sports. The SBLA's core mission is to organize an affinity group of professionals working in the sports business industry and to educate them on trending sports business issues. The goal of the SBLA is to raise funds for a scholarship program that will help underprivileged youth attend sports camps and inspire them to pursue a college education.

"The Sports Business and Leadership Association is extremely honored and grateful to be the recipient of a charitable grant from the Sports Lawyers Association. The SBLA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organizational made up of professionals working in the sports business industry that are dedicated to providing underprivileged children with the funds to attend sports camps or experiences. Like the members of the Sports Lawyers Association, the members of the SBLA believe that sports have the ability to unite us and bring out the best in us. By giving underprivileged children opportunities to attend sports camps or experiences, we believe we can make a positive impact in our communities by giving underprivileged children the gift of sports. We thank many leaders within the Sports Lawyers Association for being supportive of the SBLA, including but not limited to, Richard Thigpen, Rana Dershowitz, John Higgins, Greg Kirstein, Hal Roth, and Jack Mills. You are our mentors and we will not let you down."

More information on the Sports Lawyers Association philanthropic contributions can be found at <https://www.sportslaw.org/contributions/index.cfm>

Conference registration, a complete agenda, hotel information. and other details are available at 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 - 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, on Twitter @SportsLawyers and on Facebook at the Sports Lawyers Association page.

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