



**Michael Driscoll, Chair
Executive Commit**

Michael Driscoll's career spans 35 years in manufacturing and management; at Winchester Electronics, a global leader in the design, development and deployment of high-speed interconnect technology, he served as President from 2000 through 2006, President and Chief Executive Officer from 2006 through 2010 and company Chairman until its sale in 2014; following Winchester Electronics, Driscoll served as Executive in Residence for five and a half years at Connecticut Innovations, the State of Connecticut's Venture Fund, where he worked with Connecticut based start-ups helping them develop and implement business strategies, manage their finances, and raise capital for continued growth. Currently, he is an Adjunct Professor in the Pompea College of Business at the University of New Haven and its past Director of Internships, helping to bring real-world expertise to the classes he teaches; Driscoll has a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering Technology from Roger Williams University, an Executive MBA from the University of New Haven, and has completed Executive Management and Leadership Training at Harvard Business School, Financial Management Certification from The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, and Total Quality Management training at the Deming Institute.



**Tammi Gaw, Vice Chair
Executive Committee**

Tammi Gaw is the Founder and Executive Director of Advantage Rule, a consulting group focused on athlete health and safety, with an emphasis on amateur athletes' rights. As one of only a handful of professionals licensed as both an attorney and an athletic trainer, her career has included in-house counsel positions, non-profit management and board participation, and C-suite level work with integrated planning for large and medium scale sporting events. Ms. Gaw's expertise extends to the business of college sports, including name, image, and likeness (NIL) reform, Title IX, and medical welfare for athletes of all levels. Through Advantage Rule, she combines her extensive experience in sports medicine, business, and law with her passion for advocacy. She is an international speaker on issues around sports business, law, medicine, and social justice and has been featured in a variety of news outlets, podcasts, panels, and publications. She is a published author and continues to write in both fiction and non-fiction genres. Additionally, she was privileged to address the UK Parliament in 2009.



**John Rosen, Treasurer
Executive Committee**

John Rosen is a member of the New Haven Economic Performance Laboratory Advisory Board at the University of New Haven, a co-founder of MCAworks, LLC, and a co-founder of NewTechHaven, LLC where he is responsible for client engagements involving new business creation, branding, new product development, and channel management. Rosen has over 25 years of sales and marketing management, as well as strategic consulting experience. He has helped firms deliver real unit growth both domestically and globally across a wide range of industries: consumer packaged goods, financial services, telecom, small business software solutions, apparel, retailing, electronics, beverages, consumer durables, and automotive and industrial products. Rosen is the co-author of *Stopwatch Marketing: Take Charge of the Time When Your Customer Decides to Buy*, and an Adjunct Professor of Economics at the University of New Haven. He received his MBA from Northwestern University and BS from Washington & Lee University. He also serves as the Treasurer and Board member for The Drake Group Education Fund.



**Bruce Smith, Secretary
Executive Committee**

Bruce Smith is Director of Empowerment Strategies and CEO of the ACES Group. He has worked in K-12, higher education and intercollegiate athletics for more than two decades as a teacher, professor, administrator, and coach. As a higher education administrator, his work focused on student life, athletics, and equity and justice at both small private liberal arts colleges and flagship state institutions in California, Arizona, Colorado, and Oregon. Smith specializes in managing comprehensive student support, mentoring and supervising staff, creating connections between curriculum and co-curriculum, and developing equity and justice institutional strategies. As a professor, his work focuses on African American life and culture; the sociology of education, sport studies, and American studies with an emphasis on developing engaging, student-centered, identity-conscious pedagogy. He earned his BA in American Civilization from Brown University, M.S. in Education from the University of Southern, and Ph.D. in Education from the University of California, Berkeley. Smith also serves as Secretary and Board member for The Drake Group Education fund.



**Gerald Starsia, At-Large
Executive Committee**

Gerald Starsia is an Associate Professor of Higher Education in the School of Education and Human Development at the University of Virginia (UVA). Starsia teaches graduate level core courses including Leadership in Higher Education, Strategy in Higher Education and Intercollegiate Athletics, Governance of Intercollegiate Athletics, and Intercollegiate Athletics Administration, along with mentoring Ed.D. and Ph.D. candidates. Starsia is the author of *Plan to Pivot: Agile Strategy in an Age of Complexity*. He formerly served UVA as the Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer of the Curry School of Education Foundation, Senior Associate Dean and Chief Operating Officer of the Darden Graduate School of Business, Senior Associate Dean for Administration of the McIntire School of Commerce, and Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer of The McIntire School of Commerce Foundation. Prior to UVA, Starsia held top executive positions in the private sector and continues to serve as a corporate and executive advisor to numerous companies. He also Chairs The Drake Group Education Fund Development Committee.



**Maurice Clarett
Member-at-Large**

Maurice Clarett is a former American football running back who played for the Ohio State Buckeyes football team and also played professionally for the Omaha Nighthawks of the United Football League. During his freshman year at The Ohio State University in 2002, he helped lead the Buckeyes to a national championship. In a widely unexpected move, Clarett was drafted on the first day of the 2005 NFL Draft with the final pick of the 3rd round (#101 overall) by the Denver Broncos. Clarett is well known for unsuccessfully challenging the NFL's draft eligibility rules requiring a player to be three years removed from high school. He is the author of *One and Done: How My Life Started After My Football Career Ended*. Clarett is a nationally celebrated public speaker, founder of a successful behavioral health agency in both Youngstown and Columbus, Ohio and is co-host of *Business and Biceps*, a top-rated business podcast.



Brendan Cole
Member-At-Large

Brendan Cole is the Athletic Director at The Field School in Washington D.C. and a former three-time team captain and twice all-conference defensive back at Hampton University, where he earned his bachelor's degree in Strategic Communications with a minor in Political Science and a master's degree in Sports Administration. Formerly, he was Assistant Athletic Director and Head Boys Basketball Coach at Christchurch School.



Lawrence Flanagan
Member-At-Large

Larry Flanagan has over 40 years of diversified business experiences ranging from global advertising agencies, leading consumer products companies, financial services, higher education, tech startups, venture capital and non-profits; Flanagan is currently Executive Advisor at 1843 Capital, Inc. focused on Age-Tech innovation as well as Vice President & Treasurer for The Citizens Association of Georgetown, America's oldest citizen's advocacy organization; his previous roles include Executive Vice President & Global Chief Marketing Officer for MasterCard Worldwide and President & Chief Executive Officer for AARP Services, Inc.; Larry (MS '80, Honorary DBA '13) is a graduate of The University of New Haven where he is currently a Board Director, Chair of the Academic & Student Affairs Committee and Executive Team member.



Michael Gibbons
Member-at-Large

Michael Gibbons is an attorney with a broad range of experience in the areas of organizational governance and athletes' rights; he has worked with an array of entities ranging from youth sports up to the Olympic and professional levels and has advised local clubs, national governing bodies, pro sports teams and elite international athlete associations on how to improve management through better business and governance practices; Gibbons holds a JD from William Mitchell College of Law, an MBA in Finance from Seton Hall University and a Bachelor's in Management from Tulane University; he has been in private practice since 1999.



Emmett Gill
Member-at-Large

Emmett Gill, Ph.D., MSW, LCSW is Founder of AthleteTalk (a wellness app for athletes); he formerly served as the Director of Student- Athlete Wellness and Personal Development at the University of Texas at Austin where he provided clinical services for college athletes and created signature programming including initiatives for injured athletes and substance use; following Texas, where he was also a clinical professor in the Steve Hicks School of Social Work, Dr. Gill served as a professional sports crisis and wellness program manager – working on mental health initiatives for the NFL and NBA – including the NFL Lifeline; Gill is the past president and founder of the Alliance of Social Workers in Sports, a 225-plus member organization that promotes the social work profession in athletics; his scholarship focuses’ sports scandals, the intersection between social work, sports and mental health, social justice in sports, and Black male athletes.



Declan Hill
Member-at-Large

Declan Hill, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor of Investigations, University of New Haven. Dr. Hill specializes in the study of organized crime and corruption specifically in international sport. He is the author of *The Fix: Organized Crime, and Soccer* and *The Insider's Guide to Match-Fixing in Football* as well as numerous peer-reviewed academic articles on the subject of sports corruption and gambling. Hill is a former investigative journalist and news presenter for the *Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC)*. His work has also appeared in *The New York Times*, *BBC*, *PBS Frontline*, *Der Spiegel*, *The Guardian*, *The Sunday Telegraph*, and *The Times* (London). Hill has penned stories on the murder of the head of Canadian mafia, Honour Killings in Kurdistan, Blood Feuds in Kosovo, the Underground Railway for Iraqi women and the close connections between National Hockey League stars and the Russian Mafiya. Dr. Hill has won numerous awards for his work, including Amnesty International's Best Human Rights Documentary, and recognition by Play the Game (Denmark) and the Canadian Association of Journalists. He speaks fluent English, French, Spanish, and Italian.



Wendy Pierpont
Member-at-Large

Wendy Pierpont is a Learning Specialist at University of Oregon's Services for Student Athletes where her professional focus is on academically underprepared students across all sports, working most intensely with freshmen who take courses in composition, education, and social sciences and all students to develop study skills and academic engagement. Pierpont also serves as the Access Specialist in the unit and supports student-athletes who need accommodations and testing to get connected with accessible education on campus. She has served on University and athletic department committees on diversity and inclusion and is part of the Behavioral Management Health Team, an athletic department group that works to support the mental health and psycho-social development of student-athletes. Pierpont received an MA in Education (Intersection of Sport and Education) and teaching credential from U.C. Berkeley, has taught middle school Special Education and Language Arts, and coached cross country for three years before returning to Berkeley for her doctorate. Her areas of interests are academic engagement, students at risk of failure, experiential and alternative education, and student-athlete identity. Pierpont attended Boston University on a swimming scholarship and graduated with a BA in History. She also serves on the Board of Directors of The Drake Group Education Fund.



Michele Roberts
Member-at-Large

Prior to her retirement in January 2022, Michele Roberts served as the Executive Director of the National Basketball Players Association (2014-2021), working on behalf of NBA players to ensure their rights were protected and they were fairly compensated for the value they brought to the sport and their impact on the community; prior to joining the NBPA, she was a trial lawyer with Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom where her practice focused on complex civil and white-collar criminal litigation before state and federal courts and in administrative proceedings; Roberts has tried more than 150 cases to jury verdicts, representing clients in a wide variety of areas, including products liability, white collar, racketeering, securities regulation violations, Title VII issues and premises liability; she is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and frequent lecturer and presenter to both the bench and bar on a variety of topics related to litigation and trial practice; Roberts worked for eight years in the office of the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia, where she was named Chief of the Trial Division; she taught trial advocacy as an adjunct member of the faculty at Harvard Law School and as an instructor with the National Institute of Trial Advocacy; Roberts currently serves on the boards of Cresco Labs, The Marshall Project, The Bronx Defenders, and Wesleyan University, her alma mater.



David Sacco
Member-at-Large

David Sacco is a Practitioner in Residence in the Finance program at the University of New Haven and serves as a full-time instructor in the Finance, Economics, Management and Entrepreneurship programs; he joined the Pompea College of Business faculty in 2018. He holds both a BS and an MBA, in finance, from New York University; Sacco spent 25 years in the institutional fixed income business; he began his career at The Chase Manhattan Bank in interest rate swaps in 1985 and moved to UBS in 1986; before leaving UBS in 2009, he traded a variety of fixed income products and derivatives and rose to the level of Managing Director and global head of Rates and was also member of the UBS Investment Bank Board; in addition to teaching, Sacco is involved in several extracurricular organizations at the Pompea College of Business including the Investment Club and Liberty Initiative; he also has an active consulting business for and invests in start-ups and small businesses.



Donna Lopiano
Ex-Officio/Non-Voting

Donna Lopiano serves as an ex-officio/non-voting member in her capacity as the President of The Drake Group, the sister organization of The Drake Group Education Fund. She is the President and founder of Sports Management Resources (SMR), a consulting firm that focuses on assisting scholastic and collegiate athletics departments and sports organizations in solving growth and development challenges; Lopiano also serves as an Adjunct Professor of Sports Management at Southern Connecticut State University; she was the Chief Executive Officer of the Women's Sports Foundation (1992-2007) and served for 18 years as the University of Texas at Austin's Director of Women's Athletics; prior to Texas, Lopiano served as an Assistant Professor and Assistant Athletic Director at Brooklyn College of the City University of New York; recognized as one of the foremost national experts on gender equity in sport, she has testified about Title IX and gender equity before three Congressional committees and has served as an expert witness in over thirty court cases; Lopiano received her bachelor's degree from Southern Connecticut State University, her master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Southern California and is the recipient of five honorary doctoral degrees.