THE DRAKE GROUP EDUCATION FUND
Realizing The Promise Of College Athletics

Webinar Series – Critical Issues in Collegiate Athletics
Hosted by

2aDays RATINGS + TIPS FOR STUDENT ATHLETES

Collegiate Athletics Reform Bills Being Considered by Congress

MEET THE PANELISTS

Thursday, November 16, 2023 – 2:00-3:30 p.m. EST

A stellar panel of Drake experts reviewed college-athletics-related bills that have been filed or announced as "discussion drafts" in the 118th Congress (2023-2024) and discuss key questions. Is Congressional intervention in the conduct of intercollegiate athletics justified? Will proposed legislation protect the outside employment rights of college athletes, ensure fair monetization of their names, images, likenesses (NIL), deter the use of NILs as recruiting or retention inducements, and expose and penalize unscrupulous agents? Will these NIL bills address the current recruiting chaos created by boosters forming NIL collectives and the patchwork of NIL state laws? Are NIL bills calling for improvements in athletes' medical coverage affordable? Is the determination of fair market value an essential mechanism for deciding whether NIL contracts are "inducements" and "extra benefits"? Does the NCAA require an antitrust exemption to control the cost of athletic programs? Other legislation in the House and Senate calling for changes in the NCAA's enforcement process and gender equity in the conduct of NCAA championships and other programs were also addressed.

JULIE SOMMER (Moderator), Executive Director, The Drake Group Education Fund. Sommer is an Attorney and former The Drake Group President-Elect; expert on the status of state NIL bills, The Drake Group liaison to the Uniform Law Commission that developed a model NIL statute, and author of a 2022 comparative analysis of federal NIL bills. Julie is a member of the Washington State Bar Association, King County Bar Association and Sports Lawyers Association; a former NCAA All-American swimmer at the University of Texas at Austin, a former member of an NCAA National Championship team, USA Swimming National Team member and was listed among the top ten in World Swim Rankings.

RICHARD T. KARCHER, J.D., Professor in the Sport Management Program, Eastern Michigan University, where he teaches sport governance and regulation, sport ethics, NCAA compliance, international sport, and introduction to research in sport management. He is a member of the Drake Advisory Council and Eastern Michigan's NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative. Professor Karcher is also a lecturer in the Transformative Coaching and Leadership Program at UCLA where he teaches a graduate sport ethics course. His research and scholarship focuses on labor and ethical issues involving athletes and he is a co-author of two textbooks on *Sports Ethics for Sport Management Professionals* and *Sports Law for Sports Management*. He is frequently retained as a damages expert in cases involving athletes and has also provided expert testimony before Congress. Karcher serves on the editorial board for the *Journal of Legal Aspects of Sport*. Prior to entering academia, he was a partner at Honigman LLP in Detroit where he practiced corporate law and represented and counseled athletes. He also played three seasons in the Atlanta Braves farm system.

DONNA A. LOPIANO, Ph.D., President, Sports Management Resources and current President of The Drake Group. Dr. 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.

JAYMA MEYER, J.D., Counsel, Simpson Thacher & Bartlett; Visiting Clinical Professor, Sports Law, Indiana University; member of the Board of Directors, Sports Lawyers Association; Emeritus Member, Board of Directors, National Women's Law Center; Emeritus Trustee, former Vice President, Women's Sports Foundation. She is an experienced antitrust litigator and currently a Title IX advocate litigating and negotiating Title IX settlement agreements with high schools throughout the US including litigating a landmark class action Title IX case against the Hawaii Department of Education; has co-counseled with the San Francisco Legal Aid at Work, California Women's Law Center, Hawaii ACLU and National Women's Law Center on Title IX matters; ranked among the top ten butterfly swimmers in the world in the 1970s.

B. DAVID RIDPATH, Ed.D., Professor of Sports Business at Ohio University. Prior to Ohio, he was an Assistant Professor of Sport Administration at Mississippi State University and has over 15 years of practical experience in intercollegiate athletics in administrative and coaching capacities at Marshall University, Weber State University and Ohio University. Dr. Ridpath is often cited by major media outlets such as the *New York Times, Time Magazine, CNN and ESPN* as an expert on NCAA and intercollegiate athletic matters. He has appeared before Congressional committees and served as an expert witness in numerous cases involving intercollegiate athletics and college athlete rights. An accomplished researcher, he has authored over 30 academic journal articles, over 10 academic book chapters and monographs, and two books. His latest book is entitled *Alternative Models of Sport Development in America*: *Solutions to a Crisis in Education and Public Health.*

BRANDON SYKES, J.D., is the Associate Director of Admissions at the University of Florida Levin College of Law, where he has helped enroll three of the most diverse classes in the history of the law school and served on the school's Diversity Committee. Sykes is a former Compliance Coordinator - Athletics Risk Management and Compliance Services, at the University of Texas at Austin where he was the lead administrator for football, men's and women's basketball, baseball, and women's volleyball, delivering rules education programs and monitoring compliance with NCAA recruiting and athlete benefits requirements. His volunteer non-profit work includes board service on behalf of Community Spring, a grassroots organization dedicated to economic justice, and the mentoring of college athletes as part of the University of Oregon student-athlete mentor program. He was a four-year football letterman at Davidson College where he earned a B.A. in Sociology. His J.D. is from the University of Georgia School of Law.