THE DRAKE GROUP EDUCATION FUND
Realizing The Promise Of College Athletics

Webinar Series – Critical Issues in Collegiate Athletics
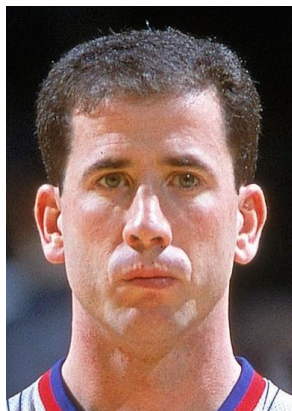### MARCH MADNESS SPECIAL:
The College Athlete: Match Fixer, Gambling Addict, or Victim?
Thursday, March 14, 2024 – 2:00-3:30 p.m. EST

On the eve of March Madness, one of the biggest sports gambling days of the year, a former NBA referee and an attorney who were gambling addicts, a professional gambler and founder of a betting tips newsletter, and experts on match-fixing and treatment of gambling addiction discuss how gambling has the potential to destroy college sports and sports across the globe. Despite the promises of bookmakers and gambling 'experts' that gambling is fun and safe, the rise in corruption and addiction, particularly among young men, is massive. Betting houses and the gambling industry have sold the country on unregulated sports betting. Celebrities, athletes, and sports leagues are participating in new, highly sophisticated media campaigns aimed at the college athlete and college student population, the age group most vulnerable to addiction. Panelists examine whether there are ways to minimize the pending catastrophe.

DECLAN HILL, Ph.D., Moderator, Associate Professor of Investigations, Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Science, University of New Haven. Dr. Hill specializes in the study of organized crime and corruption in sport. His first book, a best-seller in twenty-one languages, *The Fix: Organized Crime and Soccer*, is about Hill infiltrating a group of Asian match-fixers as they fixed matches at the World Cup. Hill's recent research indicates that the NCAA is the number one American sports league in danger of gambling related corruption. Hill has won numerous awards and testified before legislative committees at the European Parliament in Brussels, the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, the UK Parliament in Westminster, and the bi-partisan Helsinki Committee on Human Rights at the US Congress in Washington.

TIM DONAGHY, former NBA referee. Mr. Donaghy is the most famous gambling addict in America. A former NCAA and NBA referee, he gambled with associates of the Gambino Crime Family while officiating NBA games. Pleading guilty, he was convicted of wire fraud and transmitting betting information after accepting money from a professional gambler in exchange for inside information. He made bets on games, some of which he officiated. While serving fifteen-month sentence in jail, he was attacked by another organized crime affiliated person. Donaghy will speak about the clear and present danger that faces the NCAA in relation to sports gambling.

JEFFREY L. DEREVENSKY, Ph.D., McGill University Professor Emeritus, former James McGill Professor and Director of Clinical Training in School/Applied Child Psychology and Professor, Department of Psychiatry. Dr. Derevensky is considered an international expert in the field of gambling and behavioral addictions. He and his team have helped governments establish research priorities and develop responsible gambling practices, treatment centers, prevention programs, and social policy recommendations. Derevensky is the Director of the McGill University Youth Gambling Research and Treatment Clinic and the International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors. He is a clinical and research consultant to numerous hospitals, school boards, government agencies, and gaming corporations.

ED FENG, Ph.D., founder, The Power Rank. Ed Feng turned his Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering at Stanford into a sports betting newsletter delivering predictions to paying members based on sports analytics. He is the host of the podcast, *The Football Analytics Show* and author of *How to Win Your NCAA Tournament Pool*. He specializes on NFL, college football, and March Madness predictions. In addition, he works with partners to bet on a range of sports. He will speak about the difficulties and challenges of successful long-term betting on sports.

HARRY LEVANT, M.A. PCC, ICGCI-I, JD, Therapist. Harry Levant is a primary therapist at the Ethos Treatment Center and a Doctoral Candidate in Law and Policy at Northeastern University. As a lawyer in Philadelphia, Levant stole close to $2 million from clients to feed his gambling addiction for which he was sentenced on 13 counts of theft. He fully cooperated during the investigation of his crime, pledging to find a way to reclaim his life and was sentenced to 23 months of parole followed by eight years of probation. Fulfilling his promise, he became an internationally certified gambling addiction counselor and therapist and is pushing for federal legislation that treats betting as a public health issue. Mr. Levant regards sports gambling as the number one public health challenge for American universities.

NICHOLAS RAUDENSKI, Head of the Intelligence and Investigations Department, International Testing Agency (ITA) and Sports Integrity Consultant. Raudenski is a former NCAA athlete and Homeland Security Agent who fought against drug lords in Mexico and Colombia. He then worked against the rampant match-fixing related to the $1.61 trillion-dollar sports gambling market for the international soccer organizations as the Integrity Manager for FIFA and Integrity Officer at UEFA. Mr. Raudenski will speak about the global challenges facing the NCAA.