



**THE ALLEN SACK NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM:
ADVANCING INTEGRITY IN COLLEGE SPORT**
Washington, D.C. – Howard University
“The College Athlete: More than a Marketplace”

Thursday, April 18 Program

Opening Remarks

9:00-9:15am ET



JULIE SOMMER, Executive Director, The Drake Group Education Fund (TDGEF). A practicing attorney in Seattle, Washington and former world ranked swimmer, Sommer is the first TDGEF executive director. A recognized expert on name, image, and likeness (NIL) policy, gender equity, and other college athletics issues, she has been published by *Forbes.com*, *The Seattle Times*, *Sportico.com* and the *Texas Public Policy Foundation*. Recognized by Super Lawyers Washington, she is an active member of the Washington State Bar Association, King County (Seattle) Bar Association and the Sports Lawyers Association. A native of Martins Ferry, Ohio, Julie earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Texas at Austin where she was a member of an NCAA National Championship swim team, NCAA All-American, and a member of the United States Swimming National Team.



KERY DAVIS, Director of Athletics, Howard University. Davis oversees Howard University’s 500 student-athletes and 21 collegiate sports programs, the most of any HBCU. During his tenure, the athletic programs have achieved remarkable success in the classroom, winning awards for its graduation rates and culminating with the highest department GPA in recent history. Since 2015 the Bison have won 31 conference or national championships. The Bison continue to make a positive contribution to its community through its partnerships with Athletes for Hope, the Grassroots Project and Be the Match.

Panel 1 -- Beyond the Game: College Athlete Health and Well-Being

9:15-10:45am ET

This panel session will explore the importance of the college athlete's health and well-being. According to a recent national survey, nearly a quarter of Division I athletes experience food insecurity. More than one in ten experience homelessness. Statistics are similar for Divisions II and III. New stressors of coast-to-coast conference re-alignments, legalized sports gambling, and name, image, and likeness (NIL) activities are among pressures added to the lives of college athletes where time limits on athletics activities are largely not enforced at the institutional level. Meanwhile, college athletes report higher levels of stress and mental health struggles.



N. JEREMI DURU -- Professor of Law, American University, one of the nation's foremost sports law authorities, author of *Advancing the Ball: Race, Reformation, and the Quest for Equal Coaching Opportunity in the NFL* which examines the NFL's movement toward increased equality of opportunity for coaches and front office personnel; co-author of *Sports Law and Regulation: Cases and Materials* and *The Business of Sports Agents*; recipient of the National Bar Association's Sports and Entertainment Lawyer of the Year Award.



CHRISTINE BAKER-SMITH, Director of Research, National League of Cities. Baker-Smith is a sociologist trained in mixed methods and causal inference research. Her primary interest is in ensuring that policymakers have accurate and responsive data with which to make decisions that impact their communities – especially towards enhancing social justice and equity outcomes. Previously she was the Managing Director of the Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice at Temple University, managed the implementation of the “Leveling the Playing Field for NYC School Choice” randomized trial at NYU, and managed the Quantitative Methods in Social Sciences program at Columbia University.



ANITA A. DANIELS, MSW, LCSW, LCAS, CCS, Immediate Past President, Alliance of Social Workers in Sports (ASWIS). Daniels is a licensed clinical social worker and licensed clinical addictions specialist who provides behavioral health and addictions counseling. She is authorized in North Carolina to complete forensic evaluations, 1st Level Involuntary Commitment Examinations, and DMV Substance Abuse Evaluations. Prior to pursuing private practice fulltime, Ms. Daniels served as Director of Durham Center Access -- the local facility that provides crisis outpatient services for behavioral health, alcohol and drug addictions, and intellectual disabilities.



TAYLOR McFALL, Assistant Director in the Ingram Center for Student-Athlete Success, Vanderbilt University working with the men's basketball team as well as the men's and women's tennis teams. Taylor graduated from Western Kentucky University in 2015 with a Bachelor of Social Work and again in 2017 with a Master of Science in Sport Administration. Taylor's career has taken her throughout the southeast with stops at Old Dominion University, University of Central Arkansas, Louisiana Tech, and Northwestern State University as the Assistant Athletic Director for Student-Athlete Development. Throughout her career, Taylor has worked to empower student-athletes by helping them realize their strengths outside of their sport.



JAYLIAN WILLIAMSON, National Football League Players Association Player Affairs Coordinator. Williamson is a former quarterback for Hampton University who holds the school record for most passing yards in a single game (407) and the most completions in a single game (32), finishing his career as the 2nd leading passer in school history. He holds a bachelor's degree in Sports Management and a master's degree in Sports Administration, both from Hampton University. He formerly served as the Player Engagement Fellow for the Los Angeles Rams and in the Player Engagement Department for the Washington Commanders, assisting with programs that supported rookies and veteran athletes.

Panel 2 – The House Always Wins: The Impact of Sports Betting on College Athlete Well-Being

11:00am-12:30pm ET

With the legalization of sports betting in the United States, gambling in college athletics has become more prevalent than ever before and has a significant impact on how people view, perceive, and participate in college athletics. With heavy advertising during competitions and gambling company partnerships and sponsorships with media companies and schools, the landscape is more blurred than ever. Despite studies showing college athletes are at a heightened risk for gambling exploitation, addiction, and other gambling-related problems, there has been a lack of consistent and clear education for college athletes on gambling risks. College athletes are being punished for placing bets while the NCAA is permitting excessive promotion of bookmakers during broadcasts. Media outlets often feature college athletes and athletics, exposing a double standard and lack of clarity on rules and risks.



DOUG LEDERMAN, MODERATOR, Editor and Co-founder of *Inside Higher Ed*. He speaks widely about higher education, and his work has appeared in *The New York Times* and *USA Today*. Doug previously worked at *The Chronicle of Higher Education* for 17 years, covering college athletics and politics and serving as managing editor from 1999 to 2003. He has won three National Awards for Education Reporting from the Education Writers Association. He began his career as a news clerk at *The New York Times*.



BRIANNE DOURA-SCHAWOHL, founder and CEO of Doura-Schawohl Consulting LLC, a boutique global government relations firm that specializes in problem and responsible gambling policy. She most recently served as Vice President of US Policy and Strategic Development for EPIC Risk Management, a global harm prevention consultancy, conducting work in over 24 countries. Brianne formerly served as Legislative Director for the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG). Her experience includes over a decade of leadership in advocacy, public policy, government affairs, and communications working with Congress, state legislatures, and regulators to provide expert advice on gambling policy. She has been featured in numerous international, national, state and local media, including CNBC, Bloomberg, Forbes, ESPN, The New York Times, and The Washington Post.



TIM NEVIUS, Nevius Law. After five years as an NCAA investigator, Nevius graduated with honors from Columbia Law School and formed a college sports practice at Winston & Strawn in New York. As co-chair of that practice, he helped initiate and lead *Alston v. NCAA*, a groundbreaking case that led to a unanimous Supreme Court victory for college athletes. In 2018, he founded Nevius Legal, a first-of-its-kind college sports practice dedicated to the representation of college athletes. He has become trusted counsel to some of the top athletes in college sports and advised over a hundred high school, college and Olympic athletes and their families on matters including NCAA investigations, scholarship reductions, drug appeals, gender equity, name, image, and likeness (NIL) contracts and more. Nevius was an early advocate for NIL reform and worked with state and federal lawmakers on NIL legislation.



THE HONORABLE PAUL TONKO, U.S. Representative for 20th Congressional District of New York. Serving his eighth term, Rep. Tonko serves on the Energy and Commerce Committee and co-chairs the Addiction, Treatment, and Recovery Caucus. He is author of [*The Safe Bet Act*](#), the first comprehensive legislation that would address the public health implications inherent in the widespread legalization of sports betting. The Act would require states that offer sports betting to meet minimum federal standards in advertising, affordability, and AI to create a safer, less addictive product while still preserving the freedom to bet for those who wish to do so.



KEITH WHYTE, Executive Director of the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG). He has thirty years of national experience in gambling issues. Recognized widely for his work to promote responsible gambling and prevent gambling addiction, Mr. Whyte has given invited presentations at conferences and events in 43 US states and 26 countries. He has testified before the United States Congress four times and appeared before numerous legislative and regulatory bodies. Keith is frequently quoted in the national and international media.

The Drake Group Education Fund National Awards Presentations

12:45pm-1:45pm ET



TAMMI GAW, MS, ATC, Esq., HOST, Co-Chair of The Drake Group Education Fund who 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. 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.



ALLEN L. SACK, PRESENTER, Director Emeritus and Co-Founder, The Drake Group. Professor Emeritus, College of Business, University of New Haven; former Director of the federally funded Center for Athletes Rights and Education; author of *Counterfeit Amateurs: An Athlete's Journey Through the Sixties to the Age of Academic Capitalism* and co-author of *College Athletes for Hire: The Evolution and Legacy of the NCAA's Amateur Myth*; Dr. Sack earned his Ph.D. in sociology from Pennsylvania State University and a B.A. from the University of Notre Dame where he played on the 1966 NCAA National Championship football team.

2024 The Drake Group Education Fund
National Public Service Award

Honoring an elected public official responsible for advancing legislation that would significantly improve the conduct of intercollegiate athletic programs, enhance the rights of college athletes, or otherwise protect their education, health and safety.



THE HONORABLE MIKIE SHERRILL, United States Representative 11th District of New Jersey. In recognition of her persistence and work during the 118th session of Congress, to advance **House Concurrent Resolution 54** expressing the sense of Congress that Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 applies to the National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) and that the NCAA should work to prevent discrimination on the basis of sex in its programs and activities. Further, to recognize her sponsorship of **H.R. 2532 – The Women in NCAA Sports (WINS) Act** that would establish a Commission on Men’s and Women’s Fairness in College Sports that would comprehensively study equality in the NCAA’s operation of tournaments and other programs for which there are men’s and women’s divisions.

The WINS Act brings public attention to the fact that for decades, the NCAA has prioritized men’s sports over women’s sports programs, created, normalized, and perpetuated fundamental inequities between their men’s and women’s programming, and ignored, rejected, or inadequately implemented key recommendations from its own external review that identify and would prevent or address these inequities.

The WINS Act proposes a blue-ribbon bipartisan commission appointed by House and Senate leadership to conduct a transparent and comprehensive review of NCAA operations and produce recommendations that would result in greater accountability and sustained progress toward the end of ensuring that all student-athletes are afforded the same experience in college athletics, regardless of sex.

2024 The Drake Hero Award

Honoring an extraordinary individual who has helped advance the collegiate sports reform movement through persistent actions over time. The individual, through hard work and persistent effort, has created a significant impact within the world of sports reform and, in doing so, has enhanced the integrity of intercollegiate athletics.



SALLY ROBERTS, an athlete, army veteran, chief executive officer, and founder of *Wrestle Like A Girl* is the driving force of high school and college women’s wrestling in the United States. Her vision is to see every girl and woman in the world be afforded the opportunity to wrestle. She considers sport as a major vehicle for social change that will enable women to realize and exercise their power – an essential task of the 21st century. Roberts founded *Wrestle Like A Girl* in 2016, conducting girls’ wrestling clinics and programs throughout the USA. Realizing that women’s access to sport and the resources required to support their participation required policy change, she expanded the mission of *Wrestle Like A Girl* to become the preeminent non-profit organization advocating for the addition of girls’ wrestling programs by state high school athletic associations and developing women’s wrestling at the collegiate level. There are now 45 states with high school girls’ wrestling championships.

In 2020, she led the effort to have women’s wrestling recognized by the NCAA as an emerging sport, and, in 2024 *Wrestle Like A Girl* raised \$290,000 to sponsor and televise the national collegiate women’s wrestling championship. This year the NCAA has recommended that the membership approve the first NCAA women’s national collegiate wrestling championship to occur in 2026 – the result of Sally Roberts’ heroic efforts and leadership.

**The Drake Group Education Fund Student Journalism Prize for
Investigative Reporting in Intercollegiate Athletics**

The \$1,000 Prize annually recognizes the print, video, or multimedia work of a graduate or undergraduate college student journalist or team of student journalists for investigative reporting on intercollegiate athletics. The work must address an issue related to the welfare of college athletes, economics of college sports, academic integrity, ethical conduct, gender and racial equity, treatment of a whistleblower, or other significant issues.



**NICOLE
MARKUS**

**ALYCE
BROWN**

**COLE
REYNOLDS**

**DIVYA
BHARDWAJ**

Northwestern University

For

"Former NU football player details hazing allegations after coach suspension"

July 8, 2023

"Former NU players describe racist environment in football program"

July 10, 2023

The Daily Northwestern

Panel 3 – For Love AND Money – Balancing Equity, Opportunity, and Compensation in College Sports

2:00pm-3:30pm ET

College athletics is a multibillion-dollar industry with ever-increasing broadcast revenues being paid to the NCAA, conferences, and institutions while college athletes have historically been barred from compensation, and still lack sufficient medical protections. In recent years, there has been a growing movement to pay college athletes with many states passing laws allowing college athletes to profit from their name, image, and likeness (NIL) via employment outside their institutions. This panel session will explore the economics surrounding college athlete compensation including collective bargaining and employee status. Panelists will discuss the following questions:

- How does the legal landscape affect college athletes' rights?
- What is the future of NCAA governance?
- What are the implications of collective bargaining or employee status?
- What is the future for NIL policy in college athletics?



JANE McMANUS, MODERATOR, author, Editor of *Year's Best Sports Writing*. McManus has written for *ESPN*, *Deadspin*, *The New York Daily News*, served as the Executive Director of Seton Hall University Center for Sports Media, and has appeared on *Good Morning America*, *CNN*, and *NPR's Morning Edition*. She honed her media skills at ESPN, covering the NFL and as a columnist for *espnW*. McManus hosted two ESPN Radio shows, including *The Trifecta* with Kate Fagan and Sarah Spain, and was a frequent analyst for *SportsCenter*, *The Sports Reporters*, and *Outside the Lines* among other ESPN shows.



ARTHUR BRYANT of Bailey Glasser, LLP, is the former Chairman and Executive Director of Public Justice, a national public interest law firm dedicated to advancing access to justice for all. *The National Law Journal* has twice named him one of the 100 Most Influential Attorneys in America. He has won major victories in civil rights, constitutional law, consumer protection, class actions, and mass torts. Arthur was lead trial counsel in the first Title IX case tried against a university for discriminating against its women athletes and potential athletes. He has successfully represented more female (and male) athletes and potential athletes in Title IX litigation against schools and universities than any lawyer in the country.



JEFFREY KESSLER, Co-Executive Chairman of Winston & Strawn and one of the world's leading antitrust, sports law, and trial lawyers. He has served as lead counsel in some of the most complex antitrust, sports, and intellectual property litigations in the country, including major jury trials, and has represented a number of U.S. and international companies in criminal and civil investigations in the antitrust, sports law, trade, and Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) areas. Jeffrey co-chairs Winston's global Antitrust/Competition Practice and is the former co-chair of the firm's Sports Law Practice. *Law360* recently named both practices as a "Practice Group of the Year" for their respective categories.



MICHELE ROBERTS, former Executive Director of the National Basketball Players Association 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 currently serves on the boards of Cresco Labs, The Marshall Project, The Bronx Defenders, and Wesleyan University, her alma mater.



BRITTNEY WHITESIDE, Vice President, Collegiate Partnerships, Altius Sports Partners. Whiteside is the former Deputy Athletic Director for External Operations, University of Virginia where she was a member of the department's executive leadership team, overseeing the external operations of corporate sponsorships, ticket sales, branding, marketing, licensing, broadcast and strategic revenue generation. In addition, she served as the senior woman administrator with oversight of diversity, equity, inclusion and Title IX planning. Prior to UVa, she served as the senior associate athletics director at Appalachian State University and director of external engagement at the University of Missouri. She received her bachelor's degree in psychology and master's degree in rehabilitation counseling from Wright State, where she currently serves as a member of its Board of Trustees.