

## ***Webinar Series – Critical Issues in Collegiate Athletics***

**Thursday, September 18, 2025, 2:00-3:30pmET**

### **Webinar #49 - Brain Injury in Sport: How We Have Failed Athletes and Their Families**

#### **Meet Our Panelists**



**ROBERT BOLAND, Moderator** J.D., Professor of Law, Seton Hall University. A nationally recognized sports law professor and practitioner, Dr. Boland previously served as Penn State University's first Athletics Integrity Officer, a role created after the Sandusky crisis. He has also led top sports management programs at NYU (2001–2015), as Academic Chair of the Preston Robert Tisch Center for Hospitality, Tourism, and Sports Management, and founding professor of its sports graduate program, and Ohio University (2015–2017), where he served as director of the MBA/Master's of Sports Administration program. Boland is currently partner and co-chair of the Leisure, Hospitality, and Sports Business Service line at Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, a top national sports law firm. He is a graduate of Columbia University, where he was a varsity football player and wrestler, and Samford University's Cumberland School of Law.



**DESIREE BYRD, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Neurology and Pathology at the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, and Professor of Psychology at CUNY Graduate Center & Queens College. Dr. Byrd is a board-certified neuropsychologist, nationally recognized for her leadership in cross-cultural neuropsychology. Her research explores the roles of health disparities and culture in the expression of cognitive dysfunction in central nervous system disease. She has served in leadership positions for the American Psychological Association, the American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology, and the National Academy of Neuropsychology. She is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association and the National Academy of Neuropsychology and a sitting member of the National Institute of Aging-Neuroscience study section. She has authored over 60 peer-reviewed publications and 10 book chapters.



**ARTHUR CAPLAN**, Ph.D., Drs. William F. and Virginia Connolly Mitty Professor and founding head of the Division of Medical Ethics, NYU Grossman School of Medicine. He previously founded bioethics centers at the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Minnesota and has taught at Columbia and Pittsburgh. Author or editor of 35 books and over 880 papers, Dr. Caplan has chaired major national and international ethics committees and advises organizations, including the National Academy of Medicine and Johnson & Johnson. A frequent media commentator, Dr. Caplan has received numerous awards, including the NSF Public Service Award and the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities' Lifetime Achievement Award. He holds eight honorary degrees.



**BRIAN HAINLINE**, M.D., Clinical Professor of Neurology, NYU Grossman School of Medicine, specializing in pain medicine and sports neurology. For over 35 years, he has been a leading voice in presenting sport as a public good. He co-authored *Drugs and the Athlete*, which helped establish drug testing in sport. Dr. Hainline was the NCAA's first Chief Medical Officer, building collaborative health and safety initiatives with schools, medical organizations, and the U.S. Department of Defense. Internationally, he co-chaired International Olympic Committee summits on both pain management and mental health in elite athletes, co-authored the 6th International Consensus Statement on Concussion in Sport, and co-edited *Sports Neurology*. He is the immediate Past President of the US Tennis Association, and Vice President of the International Tennis Federation



**KYM AND MARK HILINSKI**, Founders of Hilinski's Hope (H3H), a non-profit organization created to honor their son, Tyler, who died by suicide in 2018. Tyler was a quarterback at Washington State University, loved by all who knew him, who never asked for help and must have suffered in silence, likely under the weight of the stigma surrounding mental illness for student athletes. The mission of Hilinski's Hope is to raise awareness, end that stigma, and create programming supporting student mental health. In 2019, H3H created *Student Athlete*

*Mental Health Week* and, in 2024, over 250 schools and universities participated in this awareness and education program on all topics related to mental health for student athletes. Their ESPN documentary, *Hilinski's Hope*, won the 2020 Sports Emmy for Best Short Form Documentary. The Hilinski family was honored with the *Stuart Scott Enspire* award at the ESPY's in 2020 for their work and, in 2022, Mark and Kym were named one of Top 11 "powerbrokers" in College Football by ESPN for their work in this space.