

# The Foggy Notion

News of the Hastings Law Library

October 2004

October is the month for the baseball playoffs and the World Series. As of this writing, the Giants and the A's are still hoping to finish with a few wins and make the playoffs. With baseball wrapping things up and football just getting started, we dedicate this issue to sports law. To start it off, here's a question – Why did the coach kick Cinderella off the baseball team?\* This is a great sports law research question. It might lead you to research in the area of contracts, or antitrust, or taxes. It could involve labor law, or torts, or even a constitutional question. Do you know anything about Sports Law? If not, this issue is for you.

## Getting Started in Sports Law

Sometimes a good book for getting the basics of a topic is one from the Nutshell Series published by West. Unlike the World Series which happens only once a year, books in the Nutshell Series are being published all the time. Essentially study guides, these concise overviews are used by professors, law students, and practitioners as a quick way to learn about key issues, cases, and statutes in a particular area of law. They are written by legal experts in the field and are well-organized to save you time.

It just so happens that there is a Nutshell on Sports Law. (Now, is it just me, or do you think it's funny that *Sports*

*Law in a Nutshell* is written by a guy named Champion?)

You can find our copy in the Reserve Stacks: *Sports Law in a Nutshell*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. by Walter T. Champion, Jr.

KF 3989 Z9 C48 2000

Some other titles that might be useful are:

- *Essentials of Sports Law*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.  
KF 4166 W66 2002, Reserve Stacks
- *Law of Professional and Amateur Sports* (w/ updates)  
KF 3989 L38 2002, Reserve Stacks
- *Fundamentals of Sports Law*  
KF 3989 C47 2004, Reserve Stacks

## Sports Law on Westlaw

The Sports Pages database on Westlaw (type *sportspage* in the “Search These Databases” box) contains just sports pages from newspapers. You can run your favorite team or player as a search, or browse today's articles by clicking the “Retrieve Most Recent” button.

For individuals who watch televised sports alone and have nobody to high-five when their team scores: U.S. Patent 5356330, a.k.a. “Apparatus for Simulating a *High-Five*.” The device contains a fake arm and hand that slaps the hand of the user. As the patent record points out, the device can be mounted high on the wall to force the user to jump, “thereby simulating many of the jumping drills commonly practiced by basketball players. As such, the leg strength and coordination of a user may be improved

....” On Westlaw you can retrieve this document by citation: us pat 5356330  
Click the links to see the drawings.

(Special thanks to Mark Cygnet, our Westlaw representative for these suggestions. Mark can be reached at mark.cygnet@thomson.com)

### Famous Lawyers in Sports

Tony LaRussa – former Oakland A’s manager • Florida State University, 1978.

Judge Alan Page – 1988 NFL Hall of Famer • University of Minnesota, 1978.

Leigh Steinberg – sports agent (inspiration for the film *Jerry Maguire*) • Boalt Hall School of Law, 1973.

Justice Byron “Whizzer” White – Colorado’s first All-American in 1938 • Yale Law School, 1946.

Steve Young – retired 49ers quarterback • Brigham Young University Law School, 1994.

### Sports Law on Lexis-Nexis

When searching L-N for sports there is a lot of information– from professional sports to K-12 and college sports, to sports medicine, and even international sports news. A great start for finding news is in the Sports database. Choose *Search > News & Business > Market & Industry > By Industry & Topic > Sports*.

Another option is to use Search Advisor and type Sports Law in Option 1 (Find a Legal Topic) and several suggested databases come up.

There are several sports law reviews and journals which you can locate by typing Sports Law in the Find a Source field at *Search > Sources > Find A Source*.

Setting-up an Eclipse is a great feature to stay up-to-date in sports law. Run a terms and connectors search in any database, click the “Save as Eclipse” link at the top of the page, and complete the short information template.

If a student wants to work in the area of Sports Law, Martindale-Hubbell® is a great place to find firms specializing in that area. The path is: *Legal > Reference > Martindale-Hubbell® > Area of Law Listings > Martindale-Hubbell® Law Directory - Entertainment & Sports Law Listings*.

(Special thanks to Debbie Myers, our Lexis-Nexis representative for these suggestions. Debbie can be reached at debra.myers@lexisnexis.com)

### Articles of Interest

Christian Maximilian Voigt, “*What's Really in the Package of a Naming Rights Deal?*” *Service Mark Rights and the Naming Rights of Professional Sports Stadiums*, 11 J. INTELL. PROP. L. 327-354 (2004)

Jay Larson, Note, *All Sports Are Not Created Equal: College Football and a Proposal to Amend the Title IX Proportionality Prong*, 88 MINN. L. REV. 1598-1637 (2004).

Ronald J. Rychlak, *A Bad Bet: Federal Criminalization of Nevada's Collegiate Sports Books*, 4 NEV. L.J. 320-336 (2003/2004).

\*Why did the coach kick Cinderella off the baseball team? Because she ran away from the ball.

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