

Sports Overview

The Sports Practice Area has a long history representing sports interests in our region and beyond, including teams, facility owners, and professional athletes. We deal with facilities, team structuring and financing, sponsorship and marketing, relationships with patrons, suppliers and athletes, labor relations, workers' compensation, sanctioning by governing bodies, vicarious liability to players, patrons and others, and antitrust issues. We also know the major sports service providers and call upon them to support our clients' success.

Representative clients and a description of work we have done for them follow:

Cincinnati Bengals

We represent the Cincinnati Bengals generally and have done so since the team was first founded in 1967. We have been involved in all aspects of its corporate structure, litigation including class action representation and antitrust issues, tax, labor relations, facility development and contracts with athletes, ticketholders, advertisers, sponsors, and suppliers. That activity included the development, design, and construction of Paul Brown Stadium, which opened on the riverfront in Cincinnati in 2000.

Tennis Cincinnati

We represent generally Tennis Cincinnati, which owns the Western and Southern Financial Group Masters Tennis Tournament and the Western and Southern Financial Group Women's Tennis Tournament, both played just north of Cincinnati. We also represent Tennis for Charity, a non-profit organization that operates both tournaments each year and owns the facility where they are played. The men's event is one of the top nine ATP tournaments in the world. The women's event is a WTA Tier 3 tournament recently acquired and moved to Cincinnati from Croatia. We have been involved in extensive work in connection



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with the relationships between the men's tournament and the ATP, the sanction for the tournament, international licensing agreements, and other related matters.

U.S. Bank Arena

We represent on a general basis this sports and events facility located in downtown Cincinnati. We have been involved in a variety of matters ranging from construction, site and access issues, to tenant relations including litigation and potential litigation with sports team tenants.

Amateur Sports

Our attorneys are regularly called upon by the University of Cincinnati, Xavier University, and Case Western Reserve University for sports-related matters both large and small. Prior to our current representation of the University of Cincinnati, we represented the NCAA when it was sued by the University of Cincinnati in connection with a potential downgrade of the University's athletic status.

We also represented, on a general basis, the Greater Cincinnati Sports and Convention Commission, which worked to bring both amateur and professional sports events to venues in Cincinnati.

Golf Courses

Our attorneys are experienced with golf course development and the representation of developers, golf course architects and professional golfers. One of our partners serves as corporate counsel to the Professional Golfers Association of America-Indiana Section, the Indiana Golf Association, Inc., and the Indiana Golf Foundation. He has represented the host club in contract negotiations for the following national and international golf championships:

- 1991 PGA Championship
- 2005 Solheim Cup
- 2007 U.S.G.A. Women's Amateur Championship
- 2009 U.S.G.A. Senior Open Championship

Special Representations

Periodically, other sports entities have called upon our expertise for special representation including:

- Commissioner of Major League Baseball
- National Football League
- International Speedway Corporation
- Cincinnati Reds
- Cleveland Browns
- Ladies Professional Golf Association
- Dayton Dragons (baseball team)
- Greater Cincinnati Indoor Tennis Association
- NCAA (on intellectual property matters)
- Pete Rose (in litigation against Major League Baseball)
- various other professional athletes.

Our Alumni

Attorneys with the firm have gone on to take significant positions with professional sports teams and sanctioning organizations, including the Executive Vice President and the Vice President for Business Development of the Cincinnati Bengals, the former Executive Vice President and General Manager of the New York Mets, two former Commissioners of the Ladies Professional Golf Association, and the former Deputy Commissioner of the LPGA.