



Sports Law in 2026: From the World Cup to Athlete Contracts

ORIGINAL PROGRAM DATE

January 23, 2026

REPORTING YOUR CREDIT

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DESCRIPTION

Join us on-demand as a roster of practitioners tackle the interesting wide world of sports law. Hear from the legal team behind the World Cup in Seattle, updates on the NCAA and NFL, torts and gaming. Be ready to hit it out of the park!

AGENDA

1 Legal Issues in Preparing for the World's Largest Sporting Event

As Seattle prepares to take the global stage as a host city for the 2026 FIFA World Cup, there is a unique mix of legal and operational challenge presented. This presentation explores key legal considerations tied to World Cup planning and execution, with a focus on risk management, intellectual property and brand protection requirements, and the complex contractual frameworks necessary to support a major international sporting event. We will discuss FIFA-driven legal obligations, venue and security planning with the Stadium Authority and the City of Seattle, commercial rights and sponsorship structures, and strategies for navigating regulatory, operational, and reputational risk. Presenters will share practical insights into drafting and negotiating key agreements, safeguarding brand assets, and ensuring compliance in a dynamic, highly scrutinized event environment.

Trevor Gates - K&L Gates LLP, Seattle, WA

John Wilson - K&L Gates LLP, Seattle, WA

2 Playing to Win: Navigating Sports and Recreational Injury Cases

Washingtonians love to recreate (skiing, snowboarding, rock climbing—you name it). It is part of what makes this state so special. But what happens when someone gets hurt? In this program, we will dive into sports and recreational injury cases, including reviewing important legal concepts, strategies, and common affirmative defenses.

Carson Phillips-Spotts - Schroeter Goldmark & Bender, Seattle, WA

Agenda continues on next page.

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3 Sports Wagering through Tribal-State Gaming Compacts

This presentation will give an overview of the legal framework for sports wagering in the State of Washington through Tribal-State Gaming Compacts. Discussion topics relevant to sports wagering will include Tribal sovereignty, the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, Tribal-State Gaming Compacts, and wagering authorizations and restrictions pursuant to State law.

Ethan Jones - Galanda Broadman PLLC, Yakima, WA

4 The Post-House v. NCAA Era: Structural Overhaul, Policy Realignment, and Legislative Futures of College Sports

The House v. NCAA settlement has permanently fractured the traditional governance model of college sports. This seminar focuses on the immediate legal and organizational policy challenges facing institutions. Institutions now face accelerated antitrust exposure due to revenue-sharing caps, coupled with the emerging threat of athlete employee status and collective bargaining. Key litigation risk for institutions involves navigating severe Title IX concerns and equity litigation stemming from the back-pay formula and future compliance. The session will further analyze the status and potential impact of appeals filed against the landmark settlement, providing a strategic roadmap for policy makers as the legal future remains contested.

Julie R. Sommer - Sommer Law, Seattle, WA

5 Welcome to the NFL, Rook! How Lawyers Manage A-Listers and Egomaniacs

Explore current challenges of lawyers representing and advising elite athletes, bombastic sports agents, and flawed institutions operating in today's shifting compliance environment. Gain an inside look at current developments in the NFL and Washington's WIAA, focusing on client management, gray-area decision-making, and emerging regulatory trends that every sports or compliance professional should understand.

Brian Brunkow - Law Office of Brian Brunkow, Bothell, WA