

THE MISSISSIPPI SPORTS LAW REVIEW'S TEN-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Taylor A. Story

A little over ten years ago, a small group of students set out to establish the MISSISSIPPI SPORTS LAW REVIEW, the first of its kind at a Southeastern Conference School. The students' goal was to provide a platform to discuss various legal issues throughout the sports industry with an annual publication and symposium. One year later, both of those goals came to fruition when the REVIEW published Volume One and held its first on-campus symposium.

In its first ten years, the REVIEW has had over 150 student members; published ten volumes comprised of sixteen issues; and has held eight symposia, covering topics ranging from the evolution of the definition of "Amateurism" to the impact of social media on intercollegiate athletics.

While our leadership team inherited a REVIEW with an impressive record over its first ten years, we knew that a new vision was needed in order to continue that success for the next ten years. Our team met and exceeded that calling. Over the past year alone, we managed to publish three backlogged volumes; have all of the REVIEW's volumes added to HeinOnline; began the process of having the REVIEW added to Lexis and Westlaw; implemented a plan to ensure the future financial stability of the journal; and enhanced our online presence with the launch of a new, updated website. Additionally, we formalized the REVIEW's write-on procedures and created a system to streamline the editing process, which culminated in a handbook detailing every aspect of the REVIEW for future executive board's use.

Yet, we also had our own task to undertake: the publication of Volume 10. At the beginning of the process, I set one goal: to develop a publication as diverse in the topics covered and viewpoints included as possible. To that end, I had only one rule: publication decisions were to be driven by academic and analytical quality and never by agreeability with the viewpoint or conclusion offered. In

my opinion, this is the only standard that comports with the successful operation of the marketplace of ideas. Upholding the exchange of competing ideas and supporting robust debate within that marketplace is not only a necessary academic function, but it is foundational to the well-being of our Constitutional Republic. Volume 10 unquestionably meets that original goal and upholds our one rule. On behalf of the entire executive board, we could not be prouder to publish this volume.

These accomplishments would not have been possible without the hard work and assistance of so many people. I would like to first thank the entire executive board — Sachi Denham, Executive Editor; Rachel Henderson, Senior Editor; Conner Whitten, Business Editor; and Andrew Todd, Outreach Editor — for their hard work and dedication. They truly embody the ideal that there is no “I” in “team.” I would be remiss if I did not extend an extra note of gratitude to Sachi, who has been the best Executive Editor any review could have. Sachi’s tireless work to modernize and streamline the editing process, as well as ensure the quality of Volume 10 and future volumes, went far above the call. I would also like to thank all of our staff editors for their hard work and attention to detail throughout the editing process. I would also like to thank everyone else who played a part in revamping the REVIEW this past year, including Dean Susan Duncan, Ms. Katherine Matthews-Pollard, Ms. Suzette Matthews, and the staff at The Sheridan Group - specifically Ms. Katy Seibert.

I would also like to express my deepest, sincerest appreciation to Professor William W. Berry, III. Professor Berry has been the REVIEW’s faculty advisor since its foundation almost ten years ago, and he has been the REVIEW’s most ardent, dedicated supporter. Throughout this year, Professor Berry has been an invaluable source of encouragement and guidance as we sought to upgrade the REVIEW and prepare it for future success. The REVIEW would not be what it is today without Professor Berry, and we only hope that the REVIEW will continue to grow and flourish under Professor Berry’s continued support.

To the members of the REVIEW, our faculty and staff, and our readers: thank you again for your steadfast dedication, genuine support, and overall interest in the REVIEW. It has truly been an honor and a privilege to serve as the Editor-in-Chief over the past

year, and I could not be prouder of what we accomplished - especially given the challenges of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The future of the REVIEW is in good hands for the year to come, and I eagerly await the excellent work to be produced.

