



Sports and Gaming

WilmerHale helps leaders across industries—from professional sports leagues and sportsbooks to financial institutions and media companies—navigate issues that arise in the complex, varied, and evolving legal and regulatory frameworks governing sports and gaming. WilmerHale offers cutting-edge, multidisciplinary capabilities that enable us to handle cases and deals of any complexity and size.

PRACTICE AT A GLANCE

- **Breadth of experience.** We are go-to advisors for sports and gaming leaders. Major sports leagues including the NBA, NFL, NHL, MLB and PGA; sportsbooks; universities; financial institutions; professional teams; private equity firms; and media companies rely on us to navigate significant—and often unique—challenges.
- **Unparalleled cross-disciplinary approach.** We are leading-edge practitioners who collaborate across practice groups to achieve extraordinary results. Our strategic response, investigation and litigation capabilities are unrivalled. We offer an industry leading state attorneys general practice. Add to that excellence in antitrust, consumer protection, intellectual property, labor and employment, capital markets, private equity, and tax, and we cover all the bases to craft innovative solutions that are specific to our clients' needs.
- **Deep understanding of the evolving legal and regulatory landscape.** As the sports and gaming space continues to evolve, so will the associated legal and compliance risks. We have helped our clients address many of the most complex legal, regulatory, and business issues to arise in recent years, and stand ready to guide clients, help them capitalize on opportunities, and address the challenges likely to arise in moments of transition and regulatory change.

“WilmerHale has in-house experts on every topic. They function as a team and communicate effectively and efficiently among themselves and with their clients.”

— *Chambers USA*

CROSS-DISCIPLINARY CAPABILITIES

- Antitrust and Competition
- Appellate and Supreme Court Litigation
- Bankruptcy and Financial Restructuring
- Capital Markets
- Class Actions
- Consumer Protection and Compliance
- Commercial Litigation
- Crisis Management and Strategic Response
- False Claims Act
- Intellectual Property
- Investigations
- Labor and Employment
- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Native American Law
- Real Estate
- Private Equity
- State Attorneys General
- Tax
- White-Collar and Criminal Law

REPRESENTATIVE SPORTS AND GAMING EXPERIENCE

Investigations and Strategic Response

- Represent the NFL to conduct a high-profile independent investigation of the NFL's handling of the Ray Rice incident.
- Conduct a culture review for the New York Mets under the direction of new ownership, including a review of the team's anti-harassment policies, its processes for addressing workplace concerns, and interviews of employees about their workplace experience, to develop recommendations to enhance workplace culture.
- Conduct three separate independent investigations for the Board of Regents of the University of Michigan involving alleged sexual harassment by the provost, alleged sexual assault by a former team physician, and alleged retaliation by the head coach of the men's hockey team.
- Conduct an investigation into allegations of misconduct by senior-level team employee and provide strategic guidance to an NBA team.

Litigation

- Secure dismissal of an antitrust action brought under Section 1 of the Sherman Act against the University of Pennsylvania that challenged the Ivy League's alleged practice of not awarding athletic scholarships or providing monetary compensation for athletes.
- Represent DraftKings in consumer class actions, securities class actions, patent litigation, breach of contract matters and matters seeking to enforce non-competition agreements.
- Represent Underdog Sports in connection with litigation alleging misappropriation of MLB players' names, images and likeness (NIL).

Corporate

- Represent the NFL in the creation and launch of the NFL Sunday Ticket package on DIRECTV and negotiation of international TV rights agreements in Europe, Latin America and Asia.
- Represent the Diamond Sports Group in a chapter 11 proceeding and related litigation in the US Bankruptcy Court and in its high-profile debt restructuring, including securing an agreement with lenders and creditors for a new \$635 million first lien term loan credit facility.
- Represent the City of Boston and Boston Public Schools in the negotiation of definitive deal documents (including a lease and stadium usage agreement) with the new Boston franchise in the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) for a public-private partnership for the approximately \$200 million joint redevelopment and shared use of a historic stadium—the first stadium in the country to serve jointly as the home venue for a public-school athletic department and a professional sports team.

For more information, please contact:

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GIR 30 List

Consistently ranked as one of the world's top five investigations and compliance practices

— *Global Investigations Review*

Litigation Department of the Year

Consistently recognized as a top firm

— *The American Lawyer*

Recognized Nationally

Consistently ranked our Corporate Practice among the best since 2012

— *Chambers USA Guide*