

What does a sports lawyer do?

Sports law is a broad area best defined as a legal practice responsive to the needs of owners, coaches, athletes, universities, and business organizations such as sports marketing firms and apparel manufacturers. Sports lawyers represent clients in complex commercial transactions, intellectual property rights, licensing, regulatory compliance, contract negotiation and dispute resolution. Accordingly, lawyers in this area must have a strong background in business transactions and intellectual property.

What does an entertainment lawyer do?

Like sports lawyers, entertainment lawyers have diverse practices that require expertise in business and intellectual property law. Key areas of service include entertainment finance, development and production agreements, sales and distribution agreements, advertising contracts, publishing, licensing, and merchandising agreements, and talent agreements.

How can I become a sports or entertainment lawyer?

An aspiring lawyer in this field should gain as much experience that he or she can with intellectual property law (see Quick Guide to Intellectual Property Law) and corporate transactions. You should take all the courses offered in these areas and participate in student organizations. Join the relevant sections of the Maryland State Bar Association and the American Bar Association, and take advantage of their networking opportunities. Networking is best way to break into these fields as opportunities are limited, especially for entry-level attorneys, and competition for them is intense.

Where can I practice sports or entertainment law?

Many lawyers in these areas work in law firms or corporate law departments of businesses involved in sports and/or entertainment. Positions in sports law are also available at colleges and universities, professional sports franchises, and national sports associations and foundations.

Where can I learn more?

[ABA Forum on the Entertainment and Sports Industries](#)

[American Arts Alliance](#)

[Broadcast Music Incorporated \(BMI\)](#)

PEN American Center

Washington Area Lawyers for the Arts

Sports Law Blog

Sports Lawyers Association

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