ZUCKERMAN
SPAEDER

Heavy Hitters

Legal Support for
Sports Agencies and Their Athletes

Attorney advertising. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome.

Athletes and sports agencies compete under extreme public scrutiny.

The widespread popularity of sports has led to a rise in the complexity of the legal issues now facing sports agencies and the athletes they represent. Sports agencies face a growing number of challenges, from lawsuits filed against agency clients, to league and union investigations, to commercial disputes between and among agencies, their employees, and their clients.

Often, the outcome of these disputes has significant collateral consequences. Lawyers managing a lawsuit against an athlete must not just prevail, but do so in way that minimizes the impact on an athlete's earning potential and avoids further sanction by the league. It is critical to choose a lawyer who knows the forum as well as the economic and labor structure that governs the agency and its clients.

LITIGATORS AND CERTIFIED SPORTS AGENTS

Led by litigators Jon Fetterolf and Eric Delinsky, our sports practice covers the gamut in representing sports agencies and athletes. We know your business because we are not just litigators—Jon is also a certified MLB sports agent who has represented a number of MLB players.

In the past, we've represented clients in criminal proceedings, civil litigation, arbitration, and investigations conducted by private law firms, leagues, players' associations, and Congress. Rather than hire multiple litigators to deal with these different legal problems, we provide one-stop shopping for all of these issues.

From defending athletes against claims of sexual assault to representing your clients in league and union investigations, to enforcing your contractual claims against departing agents, Zuckerman Spaeder has a wealth of experience in successfully handling these complex issues.

> "Jon did an excellent job, I had complete confidence in him. He's an experienced litigator."
>
> **ROSS OHLENDORF |** MLB pitcher

Attorney advertising. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome.

A team of seasoned pros

We have the skills and the experience when it comes to helping you guard your business and investment in your athletes.

CRISIS LITIGATION

We have spent decades defending high-profile clients in high-stakes criminal and civil cases. Our approach always accounts for our client's reputation and personal and financial considerations, as well as the role the media will play.

Representative sports matters include:

- A federal civil lawsuit in Washington, D.C., stemming from sexual assault allegations against an MLB player.
- A federal civil lawsuit in Miami, FL, arising from allegations that an MLB player intentionally transmitted an STD.
- Amici in the NFL's litigation against Tom Brady.

INVESTIGATIONS

Our lawyers have years of experience representing clients in investigations of all types—from criminal investigations by federal and state authorities to investigations by private law firms, unions, leagues, and Congress.

Representative sports matters include:

- Players in investigations of the use of performance-enhancing drugs by the Mitchell Commission and MLB.
- Agents under investigation for violations of union agent regulations.
- Athletes and others in congressional investigations related to the use of performance-enhancing drugs in MLB, and CTE and head injuries in the NFL.

LEAGUE AND UNION ARBITRATIONS

In arbitrations arising out of league or union arbitration provisions or collective bargaining agreements, we make sure our clients are treated fairly and receive what they are owed.

Representative sports matters include:

Sports agencies:

- In the acquisition of an agent regarding fees owed to previous agency partners.
- In seeking fees owed from a multi-year contract signed before a player fired the agency.
- To enforce contractual obligations against departing agents.

Athletes:

- Against claims from a prior agent seeking compensation from a later contract entered by the player.
- In the successful appeal of a suspension against an MLB player for on-the-field conduct.
- Numerous appeals of suspension for use of performance-enhancing drugs.

LEAGUE SALARY ARBITRATIONS

When salary negotiations break down and the situation has to go to arbitration, you need a team that can bring together athletes, agents, and the union to develop sound strategies that deliver.

Representative sports arbitration hearings include:

- Infielder, New York Mets, 2017 (W).
- Infielder, Toronto Blue Jays, 2015 (W).
- Infielder, Toronto Blue Jays, 2015 (L).
- Starting Pitcher, Pittsburgh Pirates, 2011 (W).

Attorney advertising. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome.

Key Contacts

Jon R. Fetterolf | Partner
jfetterolf@zuckerman.com
202.778.1880 DC
646.746.8831 NY

Eric R. Delinsky | Partner
edelinsky@zuckerman.com
202.778.1831

Locations

BALTIMORE
100 East Pratt Street
Suite 2440
Baltimore, MD 21202-1031
410.332.0444

NEW YORK
485 Madison Avenue
10th Floor
New York, NY 10022-5871
212.704.9600

TAMPA
101 East Kennedy Boulevard
Suite 1200
Tampa, FL 33602-5838
813.221.1010

WASHINGTON, DC
1800 M Street, NW
Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20036-5807
202.778.1800

ZUCKERMAN
SPAEDER

About Zuckerman Spaeder

Zuckerman Spaeder is consistently recognized as a leading boutique law firm focused on representing individuals and entities in high-stakes investigations and disputes. We help them with their most complex legal problems and consistently deliver positive results.

With an approach that is both aggressive and savvy, Zuckerman Spaeder seeks to resolve matters before they get to trial—often saving clients from considerable expense and unwanted attention. And when needed, the firm's focused trial lawyers know how to go toe-to-toe with government agencies, associations, and the largest law firms.

Attorney advertising. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome.