

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

*Ryan Becker*

In the second year of its existence, the MISSISSIPPI SPORTS LAW REVIEW has exponentially grown on the immense success of its inaugural year. This year, the Review has increased its staff size, broadened its recognition in the sports law community, and improved its influence in the legal community.

The goal for the 2012-2013 MISSISSIPPI SPORTS LAW REVIEW was to create a positive sustainable change for the future of the REVIEW. I am pleased to say, through this Issue and the Second Annual Fall Symposium the REVIEW has accomplished its goal. The articles in Volume II Issue I focus on impact of pending concussion litigation on the future of not only football, but all sports. The REVIEW capitalized upon its unique position as the only sports law review in the premier collegiate football conference, the Southeastern Conference, to host its an impactful Fall Symposium. The much-attended Symposium, *The Impact of Concussion Lawsuits on the Future of Football*, focused on the pending litigation between the NFL and over four thousand (4,000) former NFL players. The discussion between two renowned law professors (Dean Jeffery Standen and André Douglas Pond Cummings), a co-founder of Vanderbilt Sports Concussion Center (Dr. Andrew Gregory), a lead plaintiff's attorney in the suite against the NFL (Philip Thomas), and an NFL veteran (Todd Wade) can also be found in this Issue. The insightful dialogue between the panel left the audience with many answers and a much greater understanding of the NFL concussion litigation. Conversation ranged from the legal elements of the case and the likelihood of success in the event that the case goes to trial, to what the plaintiffs would be interested in settling the lawsuit for and the affects that a successful lawsuit could have on collegiate and high school football. The REVIEW would like to truly express its gratitude to those who participated in the panel. Thank you for your time and expertise; it is truly appreciated by all involved.

The support MISSISSIPPI SPORTS LAW REVIEW has received from the faculty and staff at the University of Mississippi School of Law is second to none. We would especially like to thank Dean Richard Gershon and Dean Matthew Hall; both have been extremely supportive throughout our first two years. We are grateful for their continued support and assistance. The REVIEW is also very grateful for the outstanding leadership of our faculty advisor, Professor William W. Berry III. He has endowed us guidance and wisdom throughout the year that has made this Issue and the Fall Symposium possible. He has demonstrated a belief in the REVIEW and a true commitment for its members.

I would like to thank each one of the members the MISSISSIPPI SPORTS LAW REVIEW, their hard work and commitment to producing the highest quality of work has produced great results. I would also like to thank Justin Campbell, the inaugural Editor-in-Chief of the REVIEW. His continued support and guidance long after he graduated from the University of Mississippi School of Law have been invaluable to the success of this year. I especially want to thank the Executive Board; Nicholas Broder, Nicole Jones, Pavan Reddy, Kyle Richards, and Wesley Shelley, the long hours and true dedication to the REVIEW has helped make this possible.

On a more personal note, I would like to thank my Mother and Father for all that they have done for me, their words of encouragement and support through this journey has been priceless. I am truly appreciative for all they have done.

This Volume would not have come to fruition were it not for everyone's hard work. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as the Editor-in-Chief of MISSISSIPPI SPORTS LAW REVIEW. Moving forward, I hope the REVIEW continues to be the authority on issues in sports law in the South.