

THE MISSISSIPPI SPORTS LAW REVIEW'S PIVOT YEAR

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The year of 2021 ushered in a year of historic celebration. The *Mississippi Sports Law Review* celebrated a decade of monumental success built on a foundation of progressively intelligent law students wanting to leave a ‘*special imprint*’ in the law school’s history and Southeastern Conference. In 2011, the *Mississippi Sports Law Review* debuted as the only scholarly publication within the Southeastern Conference exploring contemporary issues that intersected between law and sports. The mission of the *Review’s* founding charters was fundamentally rooted in providing academic programming to help increase awareness surrounding sports law while subsequently allowing students deeper engagement with legal professionals and experts within the sports industry. Eleven years later, the *Review* is thriving more than ever.

The *Review’s* successful framework is due to honoring tradition and leaning into the wisdom and knowledge of former leadership. While honoring our past and constructing a new blueprint to take the *Review* to new heights, the Executive Board, Senior Associate Editors, and Junior Staff Editors committed themselves during the summer and academic school year to ensure the *Review* ‘pivoted’ into new territory, attained new measurable growth, and cultivated the organization’s financial sustainability. The *Review’s* leadership was able to recover and reconcile lost funding for the *Review*; pivot the *Review’s* scholastic presence by successfully having the law journal added to LexisNexis; and successfully launch and rebrand the *Review’s* digital footprint by designing a modern website to provide more publishing opportunities for law students.

Surprisingly, the success of the *Review’s* Tenth Annual Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) Symposium was the springboard for a twelve-series SEC Virtual Conference centering around varying legal aspects intersecting with NIL. The success of the event brought a new heighten awareness to the law journal. In addition

to the *Review's* prior measurable successes, the law journal effectively upgraded its social media presence and engagement. Additionally, the *Review's* executive leadership also revamped the write-on competition process and implemented an annual training module. The *Review's* write-on competition process now encompasses a new graded citation component during the write-on process, and the *Review* now conducts Fall and Junior Staff Editorial Training. In simple terms, the *Review's* accomplishments are derived from the hard work and assistance of many committed individuals—especially those who go above and beyond the call of duty. Therefore, I want to take a moment to express myself in the purest form through words of appreciation.

I first want to thank my Executive Editor, Nicole B. Bracey. I could not have overcome the trials that life would present this year without you being my right hand and voice of reason. Your compassion, patience, and understanding surpass any earthly gift of value. It is an honor to memorialize the depth of your character in the history of the *Review*. Secondly, I want to express words of gratitude to Christa N. Evans for her relentless dedication to the *Review*. The passion demonstrated in your work ethic will take you far and open doors that once were closed. Remember to always work unto a higher power. I also want to thank John G. Pirtle and Coulter Holland for always leading with integrity regarding any work with the *Review*. Your intangible attributes truly define the depths of your character. Thirdly, I want to thank Emma Tompkins, Gabriel Carter, Haley Klima, and Grace Stonnington. Thank you for unconditionally standing in the gap and taking on additional responsibilities for the *Review*. The defining qualities of a leader are demonstrated when motivation is not tied to a reward or praise. I am delighted that all of you are taking on leadership roles for the *Review*. Finally, I want to thank Brittney Jackson, Rachel Williams, and Christopher G. Brooks for their commitment through challenging times.

To Dean Duncan, there are not enough words to express the depth of my gratitude for your help with pushing the *Review* into the national spotlight. Your presence in the law school will certainly be missed. Nevertheless, I would be remiss not to express my sincere appreciation for the *Review's* faculty advisor, Professor William W. Berry, III, for providing a solid support system

throughout the academic school year. With Professor Berry's institutional wisdom, support, and insightful advice, the executive leadership for the *Review* faced unique challenges with grace while pivoting the organization to new and sustainable ground.

However, the *Review* would not be able to function effortlessly without instrumental individuals such as Ms. Katherine Matthews-Pollard, Ms. Suzette Matthews, Christina Steube, Pamela Gordon, and Ms. Katy Seibert with The Sheridan Publishing Group. Your patience and understanding during academic year and the publishing process are unmatched. To the current and former members of the *Review*, alums, contributors, faculty and staff of the law school, and our readers, thank you for your continued support.

Serving the law journal is undoubtedly a notable duty and a labor of love. Indeed, it was an honor to serve as the Editor-in-Chief. I am very proud of the accomplishments the *Review* achieved as a collective. I eagerly await to see the new ground the *Review* will conquer.

Note To The Reader

Due to the lapse of time between editing, press, and printing of the law journal, recently purposed public policy, organizational changes, amendments to laws, and new legislation may be absent or not discussed herein.

