



SPORTS LAW IN 2026: From the World Cup to Athlete Contracts

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 2026

Approved for 5.0 Law and Legal Procedure CLE credits.
\$199 - Standard

Washington State Bar Association
1325 Fourth Avenue, Suite 600 | Seattle, WA 98101

WEBCAST
ONLY

DESCRIPTION

Your kickoff for the new year starts here. Join this roster of practitioners and tackle the interesting wide world of sports law. Hear from the legal team behind the World Cup in Seattle, as well as updates on gaming, torts, the NCAA and NFL. ***Be ready to hit 2026 out of the park!***

FACULTY

Brian Brunkow - Law Office of Brian Brunkow, Bothell

Trevor Gates - K&L Gates LLP, Seattle

Ethan Jones - Galanda Broadman PLLC, Yakima

Felipe Mendez - World Cup Local Organizing Committee, Seattle

Carson Phillips-Spots - Schroeter Goldmark & Bender, Seattle

Julie R. Sommer - Sommer Law, Seattle

John Wilson - K&L Gates LLP, Seattle

SCHEDULE

8:40 a.m. > Webcast Log-In Opens

8:55 a.m. > Welcome and Introductions

- **Sally Romero** - Washington State Bar Association, Seattle

9:00 a.m. > Legal Issues in Preparing for the World's Largest Sporting Event

60 minutes, 1.0 credits L&LP

As Seattle prepares to take the global stage as a host city for the 2026 FIFA World Cup, there is a unique mix of legal and operational challenge presented. This presentation explores key legal considerations tied to World Cup planning and execution, with a focus on risk management, intellectual property and brand protection requirements, and the complex contractual frameworks necessary to support a major international sporting event. We will discuss FIFA-driven legal obligations, venue and security planning with the Stadium Authority and the City of Seattle, commercial rights and sponsorship structures, and strategies for navigating regulatory, operational, and reputational risk. Presenters will share practical insights into drafting and negotiating key agreements, safeguarding brand assets, and ensuring compliance in a dynamic, highly scrutinized event environment.

- **Trevor Gates** - K&L Gates LLP, Seattle
- **Felipe Mendez** - World Cup Local Organizing Committee, Seattle
- **John Wilson** - K&L Gates LLP, Seattle

10:00 a.m. > Playing to Win: Navigating Sports and Recreational Injury Cases

60 minutes, 1.0 credits L&LP

Washingtonians love to recreate (skiing, snowboarding, rock climbing—you name it). It is part of what makes this state so special. But what happens when someone gets hurt? In this program, we will dive into sports and recreational injury cases, including reviewing important legal concepts, strategies, and common affirmative defenses.

- **Carson Phillips-Spots** - Schroeter Goldmark & Bender, Seattle

WSBA CLE #26574 WEB

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SCHEDULE

11:00 a.m. > BREAK

11:15 a.m. > Sports Wagering through Tribal-State Gaming Compacts

45 minutes, 0.75 credits L&LP

This presentation will give an overview of the legal framework for sports wagering in the State of Washington through Tribal-State Gaming Compacts. Discussion topics relevant to sports wagering will include Tribal sovereignty, the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, Tribal-State Gaming Compacts, and wagering authorizations and restrictions pursuant to State law.

- **Ethan Jones** – Galanda Broadman PLLC, Yakima

12:00 p.m. > LUNCH (Hosted)

1:00 p.m. > The Post-House v. NCAA Era: Structural Overhaul, Policy Realignment, and Legislative Futures of College Sports

60 minutes, 1.0 credits L&LP

The *House v. NCAA* settlement has permanently fractured the traditional governance model of college sports. This seminar focuses on the immediate legal and organizational policy challenges facing institutions. Institutions now face accelerated antitrust exposure due to revenue-sharing caps, coupled with the emerging threat of athlete employee status and collective bargaining. Key litigation risk for institutions involves navigating severe Title IX concerns and equity litigation stemming from the back-pay formula and future compliance. The session will further analyze the status and potential impact of appeals filed against the landmark settlement, providing a strategic roadmap for policy makers as the legal future remains contested.

- **Julie R. Sommer** – Sommer Law, Seattle

2:00 p.m. > Welcome to the NFL, Rook!

How Lawyers Manage A-Listers and Egomaniacs

75 minutes, 1.25 credits L&LP

Explore current challenges of lawyers representing and advising elite athletes, bombastic sports agents, and flawed institutions operating in today's shifting compliance environment. Gain an inside look at current developments in the NFL and Washington's WIAA, focusing on client management, gray-area decision-making, and emerging regulatory trends that every sports or compliance professional should understand.

- **Brian Brunkow** – Law Office of Brian Brunkow, Bothell

3:15 p.m. > Adjourn • Complete Online Evaluations

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Friday, January 23, 2026 • #26574 WEB

REGISTRATION

To register online, please go to the [registration page](#). Click to add to cart and complete your purchase. You may pay by credit card, or via ACH. Alternatively, you may print and mail an invoice seven business days prior to the program along with your check payable to WSBA. Credit card payments by mail or fax are no longer accepted. Note, our service provider will charge you a separate, non-refundable transaction fee of 2.5% on all bank card transactions.

Effective Oct. 1, 2025, applicable sales tax will be applied to all live seminar registrations (in-person or virtual). For more information, refer to changes to [Washington sales tax law](#).

If special accommodations are needed, please email cle@wsba.org or call toll-free at 1-800-945-9722.

☐ Please omit my name from the networking list made available to exhibitors and/or attendees.

PRICING INFORMATION

☐ **#26574 WEB, attend via webcast, 1/23/26**

☐ \$199 - Standard

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In most circumstances, if you cannot attend the live event, we can transfer your registration to the on-demand product, once available (8-10 weeks from the program delivery date). Generally, for webcast/webinar registrations, tuition fees may be refunded, less \$25 for processing, for written cancellations postmarked, emailed, or faxed up to the start of the event. For in-person registrations, tuition fees may be refunded, less \$25 for processing, for written cancellations postmarked, emailed, or faxed by 5 p.m. up to three business days before the event. No refunds will be provided after the dates specified. You may also send a substitute in lieu of canceling. *When applicable, specific exceptions to these policies will be noted on individual event registration pages.* Please email cle@wsba.org with any requests or questions.

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