



They are in the middle of the biggest deals in sports, have access to the top executives and offer some of the sharpest, brightest minds in the business. The attorneys providing outside counsel to the sports industry not only help shape the current landscape but also will be the leaders of tomorrow — look no further than Paul Tagliabue, David Stern and Gary Bettman. We set out to look at the power firms and lawyers shaping today’s deals, those who are deeply involved in the sports business to those serving a more niche, focused speciality.

Over the last few months, we have talked

to hundreds of industry executives for their viewpoints on the power players in outside counsel who are doing meaningful work and playing significant roles in sports business. League, team, media or any form of in-house counsel was not considered for our list.

We ended up with a list of 59 attorneys representing 33 firms, covering such key areas as mergers and acquisitions, finance, media, labor, litigation, sponsorship, compliance and governance.

We have separated the lawyers into four distinct groups to demonstrate the breadth and depth of their representation: Chairman’s Club, Elite, Premier and Executive.

CHAIRMAN’S CLUB
PAGES 20-21

These firms represent the dominant tier in sports law, have a long history in the space, and have strong leadership combined with a deep bench of experienced day-to-day attorneys and negotiators.

ELITE
PAGES 22-25

Firms with diverse practices and specialities, with a strong client base, but the scope of work and industry influence is slightly less than the Chairman’s Club.

PREMIER
PAGES 26-29

Firms that may have sports law specialists or clients, and very specific areas of expertise such as intellectual property, media or corporate matters.

EXECUTIVE
PAGES 30-31

Firms/attorneys focused on specific sports-related clients or area of expertise.



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DANIEL NASH

Nash is a management-side labor lawyer and has represented the NFL Management Council for over 25 years. That’s put him in the trenches for high-profile cases involving the discipline of players such as Ray Rice, Adrian Peterson, Greg Hardy and Tom Brady. Nash also has represented the NFL in a range of arbitrations and proceedings involving players and their union. He was the league’s lead attorney in April when arbitrator Jonathan Marks upheld the NFL’s policy of placing players on paid leave during pending cases of personal conduct.