THE DRAKE GROUP EDUCATION FUND
Realizing The Promise Of College Athletics

THE ALLEN SACK NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM: ADVANCING INTEGRITY IN COLLEGE SPORT
Washington, D.C. – Howard University
"The Pivot Point: College Athletics at a Crossroads"

Thursday, April 10 Program - MEET OUR PANELISTS
Welcome and Opening Remarks
9:00-9:15am

JULIE SOMMER, Executive Director, The Drake Group Education Fund (TDGEF). A practicing attorney in Seattle, Washington and former world ranked swimmer, Sommer is the first TDGEF executive director. A recognized expert on name, image, and likeness (NIL) policy, gender equity, and other college athletics issues, she has been published by *Forbes.com*, *The Seattle Times*, *Sportico.com,* and the *Texas Public Policy Foundation*. Recognized by Super Lawyers Washington, she is an active member of the Washington State Bar Association, King County (Seattle) Bar Association, and the Sports Lawyers Association.

KERY DAVIS, Director of Athletics, Howard University, 2024 National Association of Collegiate Directors (NACDA) Athletic Director of the Year Award. Davis oversees Howard University's 500 student-athletes and 21 collegiate sports programs, the most of any HBCU. During his tenure, the athletic programs have achieved remarkable success in the classroom, winning awards for its graduation rates and culminating with the highest department GPA in recent history. Since 2015 the Bison have won 31 conference or national championships. The Bison continue to make a positive contribution to its community through its partnerships with Athletes for Hope, the Grassroots Project and Be the Match.

Charting the New Landscape of College Sports: Education, Equity, and Commerce Post *House v. NCAA*

9:15-10:15am

The landmark *House v NCAA* case has fundamentally altered the landscape of college sports. This panel will delve into the critical questions arising from landmark settlement, exploring the evolving relationship between education, athlete compensation, and the commercialization of college athletics. The panel will further examine how these changes impact smaller institutions with limited resources and explore alternative models for collegiate athletics.

JIM TROTTER, MODERATOR, Award-winning journalist, author and lecturer. The 2023 National Association of Black Journalists Journalist of the Year, Trotter spent nearly three decades covering the National Football League for *ESPN*, *Sports Illustrated*, *NFL Network*, and *The Athletic*. A former president of Pro Football Writers of America, and one of just 49 voters on the Pro Football Hall of Fame selection committee, he is a graduate of Howard University. In 2024, Trotter created a scholarship foundation for journalism students at HBCUs in the wake of a legal settlement against the NFL for racial discrimination and retaliation.

THE HONORABLE LORI TRAHAN, United States Representative 3rd District of Massachusetts. A member of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce she is involved in crafting legislation regarding the ability of college athletes to profit off their own names, images, and likenesses. Representative Trahan also serves in House Democratic Leadership as Co-Chair of the Democratic Policy and Communications Committee, Senior Whip and member of the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee. She earned a scholarship to play Division I volleyball at Georgetown University where she became the first person in her family to graduate from college.

BOB PHILP, Executive Vice President, Head of Athlete Relations, Pathway Sports & Entertainment. Philp has over 25 years of experience working at top tier agencies such as 16W Marketing, CAA Sports and Roc Nation. Over the course of his career, he has held significant leadership roles, served as an internal liaison and supervisor between agency departments and has worked on behalf of scores of athletes, coaches, sports media personalities, teams, properties, leagues and top corporate sponsors. Philps was recently named to *Sports Business Journal Power Players: Name, Image & Likeness*.

ROSS DELLENGER, Senior Writer for Yahoo Sports covering national college football. He lives in Washington, D.C. with his wife, Elizabeth Crisp, who serves as a political reporter and editor for The Hill. Ross is originally from the Louisiana and Mississippi Gulf Coast, graduated from Mississippi State and then began to cover SEC football as a beat writer in Alabama, Mississippi, Missouri and Louisiana. He joined *Sports Illustrated* in May of 2018 as a national reporter covering the sport. In July of 2023, he left SI to join Yahoo Sports, where he began to specialize in reporting around the transformation of college athletics and its future, including topics such as NIL, the College Football Playoff, the House settlement and conference realignment.

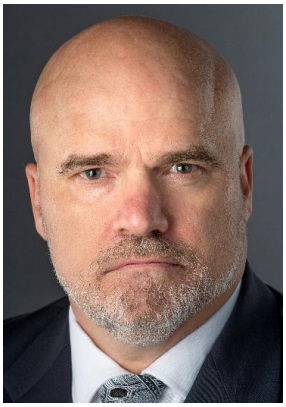
New Era, New Rules: Changing the Academic Playbook for College Athletes

10:30am-11:30am

The evolving landscape of college athletics has created ever-increasing demands on the time of college athletes in addition to full-time enrollment, academic degree progress, and other academic eligibility requirements. This panel session will explore alternative academic models, opportunities, and pathways for college athletes beyond traditional four-year degree programs, including the growing importance of post-eligibility academic options such as vocational training, apprenticeships**,** and trades.

AVA WALLACE, MODERATOR, Sportswriter for *The Washington Post.* Wallace authors the weekly newsletter, *The Sports Moment*, is an occasional guest host of the paper's daily news podcast, *Post Reports*, and covers women's sports and tennis. At the Paris Olympics in 2024, she hosted a daily podcast for the *Post*, also called *The Sports Moment*, her third stint reporting on the Olympic Games. She previously spent four years covering the Washington Wizards following her beat covering the Washington Mystics as well as local college sports

RON MOSES, Ph.D, 2024-25 President of the National Association of Academic and Student-Athlete Development Professionals, Executive Senior Associate Athletic Director for Internal Operations & Student-Athlete Welfare, Old Dominion University. Moses provides leadership, oversight, and supervision related to internal operations of the ODU athletics department, including the athletic, academic advising centers, the compliance program, alumni relations, sports supervision of the baseball program, and all facets of student-athlete welfare, including mental health and diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in addition to other duties. He is a proud veteran of the United States Army and Army National Guard



B. DAVID RIDPATH, Ed.D. Professor of Sports Business at Ohio University in the College of Business, author, and former collegiate coach. He is often cited in worldwide media outlets as an expert on NCAA matters. Dr. Ridpath has appeared before Congressional committees and serves as an expert witness in numerous legal cases involving NCAA issues. An accomplished researcher, he has authored over 30 academic journal articles, 10 academic book chapters and monographs, and two books: *Tainted Glory: Marshall University, the NCAA, and One Man's Fight for Justice* and *Alternative Models of Sport Development in America: Solutions to a Crisis in Education and Public Health.*

KENNETH L. SHROPSHIRE, J.D., David W. Hauck Professor Emeritus and Emeritus Professor of Africana Studies, Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, author, attorney, consultant, and educator. Formerly, Shropshire was the CEO of the Global Sport Institute and Adidas Distinguished Professor of Global Sport at Arizona State University. For over 30 years, he was an endowed full professor at Wharton, where he was also director of the Wharton Sports Business Initiative, professor of Africana Studies, and academic director of Wharton's sports-focused executive education programs. Shropshire has written extensively about the sports industry, including several award-winning books.

National Awards Ceremony and Luncheon

11:45am-12:45pm

TAMMI GAW, MS, ATC, Esq., HOST, Chair of The Drake Group Education Fund. Gaw is the Founder and Executive Director of Advantage Rule, a consulting group focused on athlete health and safety, with an emphasis on amateur athletes' rights. As one of only a handful of professionals licensed as both an attorney and an athletic trainer, her career has included in-house counsel positions, non-profit management and board participation, and C-suite level work with integrated planning for large and medium scale sporting events. Ms. Gaw's expertise extends to the business of college sports, including name, image, and likeness (NIL) reform, Title IX, and medical welfare for athletes of all levels. She is an international speaker on issues around sports business, law, medicine, and social justice.

2025 NATIONAL PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

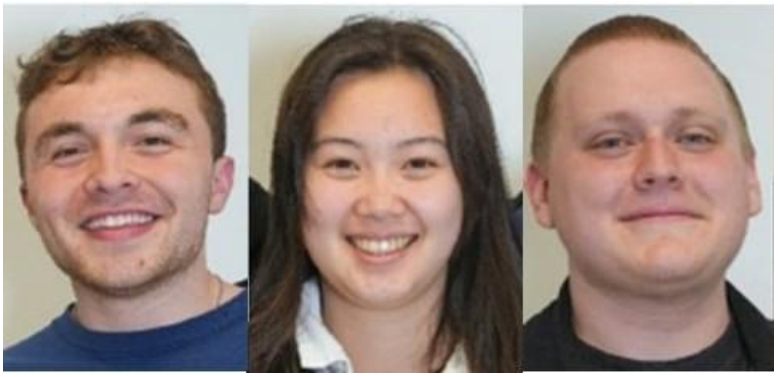
THE HONORABLE ROBERT C. SCOTT, United States Representative 3rd District of Virginia and THE HONORABLE SUZANNE BONAMICI, United States Representative 1st District of Oregon. In recognition of Congressman Scott and Congresswoman Bonamici, both ranking members of the 2024 House Committee on Education and the Workforce, for requesting that the United States Government Accountability Office (GAO) conduct an audit of the Department of Education Office for Civil Rights' (DOE-OCR) Title IX athletics enforcement activities. The April 2024 GAO report, "*College Athletics: Education Should Improve Its Title IX Enforcement Efforts*," the only government audit since the 1975 issuance of the OCR Title IX athletics regulations, found numerous deficiencies and made significant recommendations related to future OCR Title IX athletics enforcement activities.

2025 MAKING A DIFFERENCE AWARD

MARY CIAMPA and TIFFANY BULLOCK, Founders of WomenX. WomenX, a nonprofit organization, empowers women through education-- reimagining higher education to ensure women have access to women-centered education and community to realize their full potential. When the *Women's Beanpot Championship*—one of Boston's biggest college hockey tournaments—was set to be played at TD Garden arena for the first time, WomenX championed the effort to build excitement and drive attendance.

The result? A record-breaking 10,633 attendees in its first year and 13,279 in its second, shattering the previous high of 1,700 and marking a new era for collegiate hockey and women's sports in Boston. Mary Ciampa is a serial entrepreneur—the former CEO and Co-founder of Thinkmap (a visualization software company) and HoLa (a bilingual K-8 charter school Tiffany Bullock is a seasoned DEI advocate with over 15 years of experience in corporate law, including roles at SEO (Sponsors for Educational Opportunity), Legal Outreach, Fried Frank LLP, and Paul Weiss LLP.

2025 Student Journalism Prize for Investigative Reporting in Intercollegiate Athletics



WALKER CARNATHAN, VIVIAN YAO, SEAN McKEOWN
University of Pennsylvania
for
"I don't feel safe': Penn track and field program accused pf sexual harassment, mistreatment
December 9, 2024
The Daily Pennsylvanian

Judges' comments on their story:
"This was incredibly well-reported. The authors were able to get people on the record and access critical documents. I'm impressed at the way it was written as well. It was compelling without embellishing the facts. This was so responsibly well-done, I honestly thought I was reading a professional ESPN investigative story."

"Impressive to get sources to go on the record for this sensitive story. The reporting moves the story forward and continues to move it forward as more athletes have reached out to tell their stories. Speaks to the trust these reporters have built."

FIRESIDE CHAT: House Settlement/ Title IX/Olympic Sports

12:45-1:30pm

This conversation will delve into new Title IX issues, exploring how the evolving legal and economic framework of college athletics impacts gender equity. How has NIL impacted the gender gap in compensation and sponsorship opportunities for women athletes and Olympic sport athletes? Are there disparities in access to NIL resources and support systems between men's and women's teams? Compensation and revenue sharing: How would the proposed *House v NCAA* settlement terms impact the distribution of revenue and compensation within college sports and affect gender equity? Are there potential avenues for increased revenue sharing models that better support women's sports?

JULIE SOMMER, Executive Director, The Drake Group Education Fund (TDGEF). A practicing attorney in Seattle, Washington and former world ranked swimmer, Sommer is the first TDGEF executive director. A recognized expert on name, image, and likeness (NIL) policy, gender equity, and other college athletics issues, she has been published by *Forbes.com*, *The Seattle Times*, *Sportico.com,* and the *Texas Public Policy Foundation*. Recognized by Super Lawyers Washington, she is an active member of the Washington State Bar Association, King County (Seattle) Bar Association, and the Sports Lawyers Association. Sommer earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Austin where she was a member of an NCAA National Championship swim team, NCAA All-American, and a member of the United States Swimming National Team.

LORI BULLOCK, J.D., Bullock Law PLLC, Attorney and litigator in the area of Title IX athletics. Recognized as one of The American Academy of Trial Lawyers' Top 100 plaintiff's attorneys, has forced more than fifteen different universities to commit significant additional resources and create new opportunities for their female student athletes. She has obtained hard-fought relief from some of the most prominent athletics programs in the country, including Michigan State University, Clemson University, and Florida State University. She has been working in the fields of employment and education discrimination for almost a decade.

Beyond the Game: Prioritizing College Athlete Mental & Physical Health

1:45-2:45pm

Panelists will explore the importance of supporting college athlete mental health and well-being. Conference realignments have led to increased travel demands, longer seasons, and more pressure on college athletes. While these changes aim to enhance athletic competition and generate more revenue for universities, they inadvertently contribute to significant challenges for college athletes, particularly in terms of their mental and physical health and academic performance.

DAVID STEELE, MODERATOR, Professional sports journalist currently reporting on legal and legislative matters in sports for the legal news website *Law360.com*. Steele has been a reporter and columnist at *The Sporting News*, the Baltimore *Sun*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Newsday* and the *National Sports Daily*. His work has appeared at ESPN's *Andscape*, the NAACP's *The Crisis* and *The Grio*. His third book, *It Was Always a Choice: Picking Up the Baton of Athlete Activism,* was named one of the 10 Best Books in Arts & Humanities of 2022 by *Library Journal*. He has won Numerous writing awards and serves on the Shirley Povich Center for Sports Journalism Advisory Board at his alma mater, the University of Maryland.

STEPHANY C. COAKLEY, Ph.D., Senior Associate Athletic Director, Mental Health, Wellness, and Performance, Temple University. Coakley is responsible for ensuring that college athletes from 19 teams have access to mental wellness services. She also provides resilience training and mental strength training to assist athletes in effectively managing the mental and emotional aspects of performing at the Division I level. She is a former United States Army Master Resilience Trainer Performance Expert and is founder/director of Maximum Mental Training Associates (MMTA) LLC, a sport performance consulting firm. Dr. Coakley has worked as a clinician with the Superbowl Champion Philadelphia Eagles, a Group Doctor for the NBA Pre-Draft Combine, and an NBA G-League Team Awareness Facilitator.

JEN FRY, Ph.D. is a Sports Geographer, speaker, educator, and successful tech owner. She owns *JenFryTalks,* a firm that navigates the intersection of conflict and culture, working with clients to deliver powerful and engaging education, skill-based learning, and tools that create personal, professional, organizational, and cultural change. She regularly works directly with collegiate athletic teams on conflict resolution, fostering healthier team dynamics and improved communication. She is the founder of *Coordle*, a business-to-business tech company solving youth sports travel issues by simplifying tournament logistics for parents, coaches, and athletes. Dr. Fry also founded *Hyreable*, an interview and resume firm focused on scaling the careers of Black and Brown professionals in the world of sports.

LAURA LEWIS, M.S., Associate Director in charge of Olympic Sports at FirstPoint USA, a UK based sports scholarship recruitment agency. During a fifteen-year career in Youth Talent Development, Lewis established Coach & Athlete Pathway programmes for National Governing Bodies of Sport. She was an International Javelin Thrower for Great Britain and an NCAA Division I student-athlete. She served as the Northern Ireland Commonwealth Games Team Coach in 2018 & 2022, Great Britain Team Coach for the World University Games 2019, and Team Leader for Great Britain at the European U18 Athletics Championships 2022. She holds a Master's Degree in Health & Human Performance, Accredited Strength & Conditioning Specialist.

The Price of Progress: How Changing Economics Will Impact Diversity in Coaching and Administration

3:00-4:00pm

How does the changing economic landscape affect the hiring and compensation of women and people of color in coaching and administrative roles in college athletics? Our distinguished panelists will analyze subtle and overt biases in performance evaluations, hiring, and termination decisions and examine current data on hiring, compensation, and the representation of women coaches in men's sports.

EMILY OLSEN, MODERATOR, Managing Editor, *Global Women's Soccer*, *The Athletic - The New York Times.* As head of global women's soccer at *The Athletic*, she oversees a team of writers covering the women's game around the world, focusing on community and coverage innovation. She previously worked as an assistant editor at *USA Today* Sports and produced daily audio shows for SiriusXM. As a reporter and then head of news at *WMUC Sports*, Emily covered ACC and then Big Ten teams. She was the producer of the "College Football Fix with Paul Myerberg and Dan Wolken" during her time at USA *Today* and her work at The Athletic includes guiding stories on the ever-changing world of college soccer.

KYLE ADAMS, M.Ed., Deputy Director of Athletics, Delaware State University-2022-2024, Principal and Chief Strategist, itsBIGGERthantheball, LLC and podcast. Adams provides transformative workshops and consults for organizations nationwide. At Delaware State University, Adams championed student-athlete welfare, mental and emotional health resources, NIL initiatives, financial literacy, and coaching development. He curated the landmark event "HERstory Cannot Be Erased," celebrating the historic achievements of the 1982 Cheyney State Lady Wolves—the first and only HBCU team to compete in the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball National Championship game. Through his *itsBIGGERthantheball* podcast, he invites us into conversations that challenge the status quo and ignite change.

INGRID WICKER McCREE, Ed.D., Director of Athletics, North Carolina Central University (1994-2022). McGree was the first woman to hold the permanent title as the Director of Athletics at North Carolina Central University and is one of the longest-tenured athletic directors in NCCU history (2008-2022). She led the transition of NCCU from NCAA DII to NCAA Division I FCS membership in 2011. She began her career at NCCU as the head coach for women's volleyball and softball and later became the first coach in NCCU history to win conference championships in multiple sports, capturing the school's first CIAA titles in softball (1998) and volleyball ('99, 2004, '05). She was inducted into the NCCU Athletic Hall of Fame in '04, the George Washington University Hall of Fame in '12, and was later selected for induction into the CIAA John B. McLendon Hall of Fame in February '16.

THOMAS NEWKIRK is a civil rights attorney practicing in Iowa for almost 35 years. During the last 20 years Tom has developed a specialization in implicit bias and developing methods to reduce bias as a risk in employment, medicine, criminal justice, and college athletics. As a lawyer, Tom applies this specialization to represent coaches in all sports and all divisions impacted by the student-athlete complaint phenomena. In addition to his law practice, Tom devotes a substantial portion of his time to educating universities on the harmful effects of stereotypes and works to develop methods to respond to the nationwide problem of student-athlete complaints that are undermining the coaching profession and holding women back from full equality in leadership roles in college sports.

Networking Opportunities

4:00pm-5:00pm ET

All attendees are invited to attend a post-symposium networking and cocktail reception.