



## News Release

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### Sports Law Seminar to Discuss Future of the BCS and Big-Time College Football

*Important and Provocative Conference to Bring Together Important Figures  
in Sports Law and Collegiate Athletics – It's not just for lawyers!*

SAN DIEGO – Is the Bowl Championship Series (BCS) broken? Is big-time college football a system in need of a complete overhaul? Does the Penn State scandal underscore wider problems in collegiate sports?

These are some of the issues that will be tackled at a conference **November 17-18** being presented at Thomas Jefferson School of Law's new Center for Sports Law and Policy: **"The BCS and the Future of Big-Time College Football."**

The conference will feature a roster of big players - leading sports lawyers and collegiate athletics policy-makers who will take on the legal and policy issues associated with the BCS and big-time college football.

Led by Distinguished Professor of Law Rodney Smith, who is a respected scholar and a recognized figure in the world of sports law, the Center for Sports Law and Policy was formed, in part, to help facilitate the exploration of major sports law and policy issues.

"In keeping with its commitment to fairness and balance, as it examines such issues, the center has arranged for speakers who represent a wide range of viewpoints," said Professor Smith. "For example, the Attorney General of Utah, who has initiated an antitrust action against the BCS, and attorneys supporting the BCS will be in attendance, as will leading policy-makers representing a wide range of views, including Roy Kramer, former commissioner of the SEC, who is often referred to as the 'father of the BCS,' and a co-founder of the leading PAC opposing the BCS. The issues discussed will reach well beyond whether we should continue with the BCS or have a national championship in big-time intercollegiate football to issues related to the future of big-time college football."

Participants will be responding in thoughtful ways to the broader, yet pressing, question: what is the future of big-time college football? The timing of the conference purposely coincides with the period when the BCS is making its critical selections of the teams that will be able to compete for the national college football championship game and other BCS bowl games.

Up to **12 units of MCLE credit are available** for attorneys attending the conference.

Thomas Jefferson School of Law is located at 1155 Island Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101.

The event is open to the public. For registration and more information: [www.tjssl.edu/news-media/2011/4454](http://www.tjssl.edu/news-media/2011/4454)

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## Here is the Conference Schedule:

### Thursday November 17

#### 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Opening Session: Antitrust

- Mark Shurtleff, Attorney General of Utah, has initiated the antitrust litigation against the BCS
- Gordon Schnell, Attorney with Constantine Cannon in New York City
- James McCurdy, Visiting Professor of Law, University of San Diego
- Len Simon, Antitrust Sports Lawyer in San Diego
- Steven Semeraro, Moderator, Antitrust Law Professor, Thomas Jefferson School of Law

#### 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Second Session: Tax and Bowl Issues

- Chad Pehrson, Attorney with Parr Brown Loveless & Gee in Salt Lake City and co-founder of Playoff PAC
- Allen R. Sanderson, Senior Lecturer in Economics, University of Chicago
- David Williams, V.P. Vanderbilt University, also incoming Chair of the NCAA's Infractions Appeals Committee and member of the NCAA's Academic Affairs Committee
- Craig Harris, Arizona Republic, Author of series of articles regarding the bowl system
- Tim Sullivan, Moderator, San Diego Union-Tribune Sports Columnist

### Friday, November 18

#### 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Third Session: Policy 1

- Jeff Levine, Sports Law Professor, Phoenix College of Law, and has written extensively in the area
- Kristi Dosh, ESPN's Sports Business Reporter and Creator of "The Business of College Sports" blog
- Christian Dennie, Attorney with Barlow, Garsek and Simon in Dallas
- Roy Kramer, Former Commissioner of the SEC, "the Father of the BCS"
- Randy Grossman, Moderator, Sports Lawyer and Sports Law Professor, Thomas Jefferson School of Law

#### 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Final Session: Policy 2

- Rodney K. Smith, Distinguished Professor of Law and Director, of Sports Law and Policy Center, Thomas Jefferson School of Law
- Josh Winneker, Assistant Dean of Career Services, Thomas Jefferson School of Law, and Sports Law Columnist for College Sports Business News
- They will be joined by panelists from Policy 1 Panel and others in attendance for a question and answer session

**Media coverage is welcome for this important and provocative event.**