

Sports and Entertainment Law Association Hosts Sixth Annual Symposium

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“The topic of today’s lecture is ethics in the entertainment industry. There are none. Thanks, that’s it,” quipped Bob Donnelly, Esq. of the Lommen Abdo Law Firm at the beginning of the morning Ethics Panel “The Biggest Practice Mistakes to Avoid,” during the Sixth Annual Sports and Entertainment Law CLE Symposium held on Friday, April 1st on Widener Law’s Delaware campus.

The symposium, hosted by the student-run Sports and Entertainment Law Association, brought together noted attorneys practicing in the area of entertainment and sports law to discuss current and emerging issues in the field. Adjunct Professor Alexander Murphy, the faculty advisor to SELA, offered the morning welcome and kept the event moving along. In addition to the morning Ethics panel that featured Donnelly and Ken Abdo of Lommen Abdo, the daylong program also featured panels on Music, Sports, and TV and Film.



The Music panel featured Bernard M. Resnick, Esq. and John P. Luneau, Esq. Resnick presented “Legal Issues on Stage – Concert Tour Update,” and Luneau’s talk was entitled “DIY: Is it the New Reality of the Record Business?” The TV and Film Panel examined the impact of piracy on the film industry as Thomas M. Dunlap, Esq. of Dunlap, Grubb, & Weaver and Barbara Mudge, President of Worldwide Film Entertainment, LLC, presented “The Scope of Illegal Downloading and Film Piracy.”

“The NFL lockout is a very scary thing,” said Everette Scott, Esq., a 1994 graduate of Widener Law, to begin the day’s final panel, which focused on the NFL’s current Collective Bargaining woes and the issue of minority coaching opportunities in athletics. Mr. Scott, of the Scott Group LLC in Mt. Laurel, New Jersey, discussed the lockout and his experiences representing NFL players.

Edward Wasielewski, Esq., President of EMG Sports Management, joined Mr. Scott on the panel. In addition to offering his own thoughts on the lockout, Mr. Wasielewski discussed how he became an NFL agent, relating the story of how he secured his first client; former Arizona Cardinal and Carolina Panther defensive back Jermaine Hardy.

The Sports Panel closed with a consideration of minority representation in athletics. Professor André Douglas Pond Cummings of West Virginia University College of Law spoke about the troubling history of sports and race relations. He noted that while access issues on the playing field have largely been eradicated, that there are still access issues for minority candidates when it comes to coaching and front office opportunities.