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Research and Resources: Where to begin researching international sports law

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Research & RESOURCES

Where to begin researching international sports law

Just a few weeks before the 2012 Summer Olympics, 1992 Olympic competitor and seven-time Tour de France champion Lance Armstrong was banned from all competitions pending an investigation into doping allegations. Given the media attention that doping has gained in the past several years, many people are aware that it is a serious violation. However, many people are not aware that doping is just one area of international sports law.

When researching international sports law, it may be difficult to know where to begin. There are numerous sources available, ranging from the broad overview to the more detailed analysis.

A researcher unfamiliar with international sports law might want to begin researching by accessing the "Olympics and International Sports Law Guide" by the Georgetown University Law Library (www.ll.georgetown.edu/guides/lawolympics.cfm#CAS). This site provides the researcher with a broad overview of international sports law; with discussions on the Olympics, the Court of Arbitration for Sports and anti-doping. When researching the Olympics in general, one might begin by viewing the Olympic Charter, accessible at www.olympic.org/Documents/olympic_charter_en.pdf.

Another informative resource for the beginning researcher is Amy Burchfield's discussion of international sports law, available at www.nyulawglobal.org/Globalex/International_Sports_Law1.htm. This resource, last updated in 2011, covers a wide variety of topics such as anti-doping, human rights violations, the Court of Arbitration for Sports, women in sports, and the European Union's policy on violence by spectators.

A good treatise for those seeking a general overview of international sports law is "Lex Sportiva: What is International Sports Law?" edited by Robert C.R. Siekmann. This book discusses the theory behind international sports law as a discipline as well as what is involved in international sports law.

The Asser International Sports Law Centre is a Hague-based, inter-university research center. The center publishes The International

Sports Law Journal, a subscription-based journal. The journal has recently covered issues such as the scope of international sports law, governing bodies, intellectual property rights and sports arbitration. The Asser Center can be accessed at: www.asser.nl/Default.aspx?site_id=11&level=13906.

However, occasionally a more in-depth analysis of a particular topic is needed. There are numerous treatises and books on the subject available:

"International Sports Law, 2d" by James Nafziger is a hardbound treatise covering topics including human rights of athletes, instant replay cameras for dispute resolution, corruption, European regional law and doping.

"The Law of the Olympic Games" by Alexandre Miguel Mestre discusses the rules and institutions of the Olympic Games from both a historical and a modern perspective. It also discusses the most frequently addressed legal questions surrounding the Olympics: eligibility criteria, the Olympic symbol, the environment and marketing.

"Sports Marketing Arrangements: Legal, Fiscal, and Practical Aspects" by Ian S. Blackshaw discusses the theory and practice of sports marketing arrangements. The book provides discussion on marketing and dispute resolution through the Court of Arbitration for Sport and analyzes drafting international sports marketing agreements.

"Sport Mediation and Arbitration" by Ian S. Blackshaw addresses dispute resolution through different sports bodies such as the Court of Arbitration of Sport, the United Kingdom Sports Resolutions Service, and the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) Dispute Resolution Chamber. The book concludes with samples of leading arbitral awards and decisions.

"The Strict Liability Principles and the Human Rights of Athletes in Doping Cases" by Janwillem Soek discusses the nature of doping

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offenses as well as sanctions and economic consequences of doping.

In addition to consulting treatises, there are a number of subject-specific websites that are helpful to researchers interested in detailed discussion.

For research on anti-doping, the website for the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) (www.asser.nl/Default.aspx?site_id=11&level1=13906) is very helpful. WADA recently published its 2011 annual report, which is available for download on its website.

Finally, for information on the Court of Arbitration of Sport, which plays an integral part in international sports law, a researcher may access the court's website at www.tas-cas.org/news. The court's website lists the rules for mediation and the code of the court.

Rebecca Mattson is a research librarian at Harris Beach PLLC. She holds a juris doctor from the University at Buffalo Law School and a Master of Library Science from the University at Buffalo. She is a member of the New York State Bar, Monroe County Bar Association, the American Association of Law Libraries and the American Association of Law Libraries of Upstate New York.