

# CONGRESS AND SPORTS AGENTS:

## A Legislative History of the Sports Agent Responsibility and Trust Act (SPARTA)

*Edited by*

Edmund P. Edmonds

*Associate Dean for Library and Information  
Technology and Professor of Law  
Notre Dame Law School*

William H. Manz

*Assistant Law Librarian and  
Director of Student Publications  
St. John's University School of Law*

Thomas J. Kettleon

*Barna, Guzy & Steffen, Ltd.  
Minneapolis, Minnesota.*

William S. Hein & Co., Inc.  
Buffalo, New York  
2008

**HEIN'S SPORTS LAW  
LEGISLATIVE HISTORY SERIES**

**Baseball and Antitrust: The Legislative History of the Curt Flood  
Act of 1998**

**Congress and Boxing: A Legislative History, 1960–2003**

**Congress and Sports Agents: A Legislative History of the  
Sports Agent Responsibility and Trust Act (SPARTA)**

ISBN 978-0-8377-1575-9

Introduction and selection and arrangement of materials  
© 2008 William S. Hein & Co., Inc.

Printed in the United States of America

The quality of this reprint is equivalent to the  
quality of the original work.



This volume is printed on acid-free paper  
by William S. Hein & Co., Inc.

## PREFACE

### Congress and Sports Agents

Ed Edmonds<sup>1</sup>

This volume is the third publication in the Hein's Sports Law Legislative History Series.<sup>2</sup> The goal of the series is to provide readers with a comprehensive collection of the relevant Congressional documents related to that enacted legislation supplemented with an article that highlights the issues and concerns that caused Congress to move beyond mere bemusement to actual legislation. Although the number of sports-related concerns that Congress has addressed are significant, actual legislation is relatively modest. The two prior sets in the series involved baseball's labor and antitrust history and boxing. In both cases, legislation was passed only after decades of hearings and numerous bills that died in committees.

This volume involves the Sports Agent Responsibility and Trust Act (SPARTA).<sup>3</sup> Although this work continues my efforts in this series with Bill Manz, I am particularly pleased to include an article, "SPARTA: Will Regulating Sports Agents With Federal Regulation Work?" by my former student at the University of St. Thomas School of Law, Thomas J. Kettleon, as an integral part of the completed project. Tom originally worked on this topic for my Sports Law Seminar at St. Thomas in fall 2005. Tom is now working at Barna, Guzy & Steffen, Ltd. in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The article provides an overview of the issues regarding agent

---

<sup>1</sup> Associate Dean for Library and Information Technology and Professor of Law, Notre Dame Law School.

<sup>2</sup> The previous two sets in this series are Edmund P. Edmonds & William H. Manz, *BASEBALL AND ANTITRUST: THE LEGISLATIVE HISTORY OF THE CURT FLOOD ACT OF 1998* (2001) (3 volumes) and Edmund P. Edmonds & William H. Manz, *CONGRESS AND BOXING: A LEGISLATIVE HISTORY, 1960-2003* (2005) (7 volumes).

<sup>3</sup> Sports Agent Responsibility and Trust Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 7801-7807 (Supp IV, 2004).

behavior that concerned Congress while also examining the act itself. Tom also addresses the Congressional motivation before concluding that the act falls short of the stated goal of protecting vulnerable athletes.

An additional feature of the set is an appendix containing state legislation in this area. A substantial majority of states concerned with regulating the behavior of sports agents have enacted a version of the Uniform Athlete Agents Act of 2000 as drafted by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws. The appendix includes the language from each specific state that enacted the uniform act while also including those acts from legislatures who charted their own course.

I want to thank Bill Manz and Tom Kettleson for their efforts as well as the work of Sheila Jarrett, Senior Editor at William S. Hein & Co., Inc. I also want to thank President Kevin Marmion and Senior Vice President Dick Spinelli of Hein for their patience and support of this series. Three members of the Notre Dame Law School community also deserve praise for their efforts on this project. Skyler Bradbury, Notre Dame Law School Class of 2008, did a citation and stylistic edit of Tom's article and worked on editing a substantial number of the state acts. Joshua Rinschler, Notre Dame Law School Class of 2009, also edited a number of state statutes. Teresa A. Welty, Kresge Law Library Administrative Assistant, expertly provided a consistent style to each of the state laws. This project would never have happened without the dedicated work and encouragement of everyone mentioned in this paragraph.

*Ed Edmonds  
Notre Dame, Indiana  
November 2007*