HEIN'S SPORTS LAW
LEGISLATIVE HISTORY SERIES

Congress and Boxing: A Legislative History, 1966-2003
Congress and Sports Agents: A Legislative History of the Sports Agent Responsibility and Trust Act (SPARTA)


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PREFACE

Congress and Sports Agents

Ed Edmonds¹

This volume is the third publication in the Hein's Sports Law Legislative History Series.¹ 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 recollection 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 (SAPRTA).¹ Although this work continues my efforts in this series with Bill Marx, I am particularly pleased to include an article, “SAPRTA: Will Regulating Sports Agents With Federal Regulation Work?” by my former student at the University of St. Thomas School of Law, Thomas J. Kettleson, 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 Barba, Gazy & Steffen, Ltd in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The article provides an overview of the issues regarding agent

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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 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 these acts from legislators who charted their own course.

I want to thank Bill Mann and Tom Kettleston 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 Marmo and Senior Vice President Dick Spiselli 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 Bradford, 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 Rischbieter, 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
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