



ZUCKERMAN  
SPAEDER

# Heavy Hitters

Legal Support for  
Sports Agencies and Their Athletes

ZUCKERMAN SPAEDER LLP | WASHINGTON, DC | NEW YORK | TAMPA | BALTIMORE

Attorney advertising. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome.

# Athletes and sports agencies compete under extreme public scrutiny.

**T**here has been a rise in the complexity of the legal issues now facing sports agencies and the athletes they represent. Sports agencies face a growing number of challenges, from lawsuits filed against agency clients, to league and union investigations, to commercial disputes between and among agencies, their employees, and their clients.

Often, the outcome of these disputes has significant collateral consequences. Lawyers managing a lawsuit against an athlete must not just prevail, but do so in a way that minimizes the impact on an athlete's earning potential and avoids further sanction by the league. It is critical to choose a lawyer who knows the forum as well as the economic and labor structure that governs the agency and its clients.

## **LITIGATORS AND CERTIFIED SPORTS AGENTS**

Led by litigator Jon Fetterolf, our sports practice covers the gamut in representing sports agencies and athletes. We know your business because we are not just litigators—Jon is also a certified MLB sports agent who has represented a number of MLB players.

In the past, we've represented athletes in criminal proceedings, civil litigation, arbitration, and investigations conducted by private law firms, leagues, players' associations, and Congress. Rather than hire multiple litigators to deal with these different legal problems, we provide one-stop shopping for all of these issues.

From defending athletes against claims of sexual assault to representing your clients in league and union investigations, to enforcing your contractual claims against departing agents, Zuckerman Spaeder has a wealth of experience in successfully handling these complex issues.

“

Jon did an excellent job, I had complete confidence in him. He's an experienced litigator.”

**ROSS OHLENDORF** | Former MLB pitcher

# A team of seasoned pros

We have the skills and the experience when it comes to helping you guard your business and investment in your athletes.



## CRISIS LITIGATION

We have spent decades defending high-profile clients in high-stakes criminal and civil cases. Our approach always accounts for our client's reputation and personal and financial considerations, as well as the role the media will play.

Representative sports matters involving athletes include:

- ▶ A federal civil lawsuit in Illinois, stemming from assault and battery charges against an MLB player;
- ▶ A federal civil lawsuit in Washington, D.C., stemming from sexual assault allegations against an MLB player;
- ▶ A federal civil lawsuit in Miami, FL, arising from allegations that an MLB player intentionally transmitted an STD; and
- ▶ Amici in the NFL's litigation against Tom Brady.

## INVESTIGATIONS

Our lawyers have years of experience representing clients in investigations of all types—from criminal investigations by federal and state authorities to investigations by private law firms, unions, leagues, and Congress.

Representative sports matters include:

- ▶ Players in investigations of the use of performance-enhancing drugs by the Mitchell Commission and MLB;
- ▶ Agents under investigation for violations of union agent regulations; and
- ▶ Athletes and others in congressional investigations related to the use of performance-enhancing drugs in MLB, and CTE and head injuries in the NFL.

## LEAGUE AND UNION ARBITRATIONS

In arbitrations arising out of league or union arbitration provisions or collective bargaining agreements, we make sure our clients are treated fairly and receive what they are owed.

Representative matters include:

### Sports agencies:

- ▶ In the acquisition of an agent regarding fees owed to previous agency partners;
- ▶ In seeking fees owed from a multi-year contract signed before a player fired the agency; and
- ▶ To enforce contractual obligations against departing agents.

### Athletes:

- ▶ Against claims from a prior agent seeking compensation from a later contract entered by the player;
- ▶ Against claims by an agent seeking fees from an NBA player's contract;
- ▶ In the successful appeal of a suspension against an MLB player for on-the-field conduct;
- ▶ Numerous appeals of suspension for use of performance-enhancing drugs; and
- ▶ Claims against a player for violation of the Tennis Anti-Corruption Rules.

## LEAGUE SALARY ARBITRATIONS

When salary negotiations break down and the situation has to go to arbitration, you need a team that can bring together athletes, agents, and the union to develop sound strategies that deliver.

### Representative sports arbitration hearings include:

- ▶ Outfielder, Los Angeles Angels, 2020 - Player Win
- ▶ Infielder, Miami Marlins, 2020 - Player Win
- ▶ Outfielder, Washington Nationals, 2019 - Club Win
- ▶ Infielder, Chicago White Sox, 2018 - Player Win
- ▶ Infielder, New York Mets, 2017 - Player Win
- ▶ Infielder, Toronto Blue Jays, 2015 - Club Win
- ▶ Infielder, Toronto Blue Jays, 2015 - Player Win
- ▶ Starting Pitcher, Pittsburgh Pirates, 2011 - Player Win

## Key Contacts



**Jon R. Fetterolf** | Partner

[jfetterolf@zuckerman.com](mailto:jfetterolf@zuckerman.com)

202.778.1880 DC

212.704.4348 NY

## Locations

### **BALTIMORE**

100 East Pratt Street  
Suite 2440  
Baltimore, MD 21202-1031  
410.332.0444

### **NEW YORK**

485 Madison Avenue  
10th Floor  
New York, NY 10022-5871  
212.704.9600

### **TAMPA**

101 East Kennedy Boulevard  
Suite 1200  
Tampa, FL 33602-5838  
813.221.1010

### **WASHINGTON, DC**

1800 M Street, NW  
Suite 1000  
Washington, DC 20036-5807  
202.778.1800

## About Zuckerman Spaeder LLP



**ZUCKERMAN**  
SPAEDER

Zuckerman Spaeder is consistently recognized as a leading boutique law firm focused on representing individuals and entities in high-stakes investigations and disputes. We help them with their most complex legal problems and consistently deliver positive results.

With an approach that is both aggressive and savvy, Zuckerman Spaeder seeks to resolve matters before they get to trial—often saving clients from considerable expense and unwanted attention. And when needed, the firm's focused trial lawyers know how to go toe-to-toe with government agencies, associations, and the largest law firms.