



CONGRESS AND SPORTS AGENTS:

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

Edited by

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The third installment in Hein's Sports Law Legislative History Series

In 1996, people across the country fell in love with Tom Cruise as the idealistic, hardworking sports agent Jerry McGuire. He believed in his athletes and struggled tirelessly for their success. Unfortunately not all sports agents are as likeable as Jerry McGuire.

Today, there is a common perception of sports agents as unscrupulous, unethical, self-interested and dishonest, doing anything and everything to sign the next star athlete. Money, cars, jewelry, loans, parties or anything imaginable is offered by some sports agents to the student-athlete in order to entice that professional prospect to sign with that particular agent. These types of activities can have dire consequences for athletes who might lose their college eligibility, scholarships, money and credibility. In recent years, Congress has grown concerned over the deceptive and unethical treatment of amateur athletes by sports agents.

Although a majority of individual states have adopted legislation directed toward the conduct of sports agents, the federal government found it necessary to enact Public Law 108-304, the Sports Agent Responsibility and Trust Act (SPARTA). Congress has recognized that many acts of sports agents go unpunished because of disparate, ineffective, or in some cases, a complete absence of state laws. This volume offers readers the legislative history of SPARTA, including copies of the law, reports, hearings, and related bills.

An additional feature of the set is an appendix containing state legislation in this area. 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.

1 volume.....\$95.00

Item: 64504 ISBN: 978-0-8377-1623-7

Pages: 828 pp.

Published: Buffalo; William S. Hein & Co., Inc.; 2008

HEIN'S SPORTS LAW LEGISLATIVE HISTORY SERIES, NUMBER 3



William S. Hein & Co., Inc.

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