Sports

Skadden

Skadden has one of the preeminent sports law practices in the country. We have successfully handled high-stakes matters for major U.S. professional sports leagues, including litigation, antitrust, corporate, labor and employment, league governance, intellectual property, real estate, player health and safety, insurance and anti-doping issues. We have represented athletes as well as numerous individual major league teams and their owners in general litigation, player disputes, acquisitions, dispositions, stadium financings, venue leases, corporate financing, licensing transactions, sponsorship agreements and project finance work.

Skadden has a thorough understanding of the legal challenges that can arise in the sports world and the best approaches for addressing these issues. Our attorneys have successfully represented the National Basketball Association (NBA), the National Hockey League (NHL), the National Football League (NFL), Major League Baseball (MLB), the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), the PGA TOUR and the United States Tennis Association, among others, in a broad spectrum of matters, including many first-of-their-kind matters.

We have served as a principal outside counsel to both the NBA and the NHL and have been involved in nearly every major legal decision affecting both leagues for more than two decades. Additionally, we have played a principal role in many of the most high-profile disputes on behalf of professional and amateur sports organizations and teams.

Much of our corporate work draws on the extensive and relevant experience of our attorneys across the firm's many practices, including M&A, banking, capital markets, intellectual property and technology, antitrust, project finance (particularly involving the construction of new stadiums and arenas), real estate and corporate restructuring, among other areas. Skadden has the capability to assist clients with structuring acquisitions and post-closing operational matters ranging from capital raises to naming rights, stadium financing and other financing matters.

The firm provides comprehensive legal services in connection with the acquisition, enforcement and commercialization of intellectual property assets. These services include counseling; licensing and transfer agreements and other transaction-related services; and trademark and copyright clearance, registration and litigation.

Skadden's sports practice has been named a Platinum law firm — the "most prominent tier in sports law" — in the *Sports Business Journal*'s "Power Players: Outside Counsel" feature. Our sports practice also is one of only four firms ranked in the top tier for Sports Law by *Chambers USA*, with sources describing our practice as "hard-working, smart, extremely knowledgeable" and having the "skill and capacity to handle complex issues." Our Sports Group also has been named repeatedly in Tier 1 by *Best Lawyers* Best Law Firms and as one of *Law360*'s Sports Groups of the Year.

Additional representative experience includes:

M&A Matters

- **Bruce Sherman** as lead investor of a consortium that included Derek Jeter and Michael Jordan in the $1.2 billion acquisition of the Miami Marlins Major League Baseball franchise from Jeffrey Loria. Upon the closing, Mr. Sherman became chairman, principal owner and control person of the Marlins
- **Lionel Messi** in his agreement to play for Major League Soccer club Inter Miami CF
- **The United Football League** (UFL) in connection with the investment in the league by Mike Repole's Impact Capital
- **The XFL** in its:
  - combination with the United States Football League
  - relaunch as a professional football league following its acquisition by Redbird Capital Partners, Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson and Dany Garcia
  - partnership with Disney for ABC, ESPN networks and FX to broadcast all of the XFL's games
  - discussions with the CFL on possible collaborations
- **Rogers Communications Inc.** in its C$4.7 billion acquisition of Bell's 37.5% ownership stake in Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment
- **The PGA TOUR** in the:
  - merger of its affiliate with an affiliate of EZLinks Golf to create a joint venture, EZLinks Golf LLC, a leading online tee-time reservation business
  - acquisitions by EZLinks of (a) Integrated Business Systems and (b) Distinct Software Solutions and related debt and equity financings, including a significant minority investment by Providence Equity Partners
  - sale of EZLinks Golf LLC to NBC Sports Group
- **viagogo** in its $4.05 billion acquisition of StubHub, Inc. from eBay Inc.
- **the special committee of the board of directors of TKO Group Holdings, Inc.** in its $3.25 billion all-equity acquisition of certain sports-related businesses from its controlling stockholder Endeavor Group Holdings, Inc., including Professional Bull Riders, IMG Sports and On Location
- **UNA Sports Group LLC** in its acquisition of the New York Summer and Winter teams from the MoonPay X Games League
- **Wes Edens**, founder of Fortress Investment Group LLC and owner of the Milwaukee Bucks, in his joint investment with Nassef Sawiris in Aston Villa Football Club Limited
- **San Jose Earthquakes** in the tax aspects of Heath Freeman's acquisition of ownership of the club and its home stadium, PayPal Park, from John Fisher and Partners
- **Collaborative Fund** as lead investor in a $575 million Series G funding round in WHOOP, Inc., valuing the company at $10.1 billion
- **Worldwide Golf** and **Capitol Hill Group** in their acquisition of Big 5 Sporting Goods Corporation, one of America's top retailers of name-brand sporting goods and accessories, in an all-cash transaction. Southern California-based Big 5 has over 400 store locations across 11 western states
- **SIGNA International Sports Holding GmbH**:
  - in its $3.2 billion business combination with Yucaipa Acquisition Corporation. As a result, SIGNA became a publicly traded company. The merger also included the acquisition of WiggleCRC Group
  - (along with **SIGNA Sports United GmbH**) in the formation of a strategic partnership with AEON and The Central Group
- **FaZe Clan Inc.** in its merger with B. Riley Principal 150 Merger Corp. at an equity value of $1 billion
- **Juggernaut Capital** in the sale of its portfolio company Mitchell & Ness to Fanatics and other investors, including rappers Jay-Z, Meek Mill and Lil Baby
- **The National Hockey League** in its:
  - $140 million acquisition of the Phoenix Coyotes from Jerry Moyes
  - $170 million sale of the Phoenix Coyotes to IceArizona Acquisition Co., LLC, a group of Canadian and U.S. investors led by George Gosbee and Anthony LeBlanc
  - $170 million sale of the Atlanta Thrashers to True North Sports and Entertainment Ltd., which relocated the team to Winnipeg
  - sale of the Dallas Stars to Tom Gaglardi as part of the Dallas Stars' prepackaged bankruptcy
  - sale of the New York Islanders by Charles Wang to Scott Malkin and Jonathan Ledecky

  - sale of the New Jersey Devils and the Prudential Center by Jeffrey Vanderbeek to Joshua Harris and David Blitzer. In connection with the sale, the Devils restructured their existing first-, second- and third-lien loan agreements
  - sale of the St. Louis Blues Hockey Club LLC to Tom Stillman
  - sale of the Florida Panthers Hockey Club, Ltd. to Vincent Viola
  - agreements with team owners and third parties regarding ownership changes, financing and league rules
- **Qatar Investment Authority**, as investment counsel, in its minority investment in Monumental Sports & Entertainment
- **The Forest Road Company** in its acquisition of the ERT Formula E team, rebranding it Kiro Race Co
- **Athletes First** in connection with MASTRY Ventures and General Catalyst's acquisition of a majority stake in Athletes First
- **United Talent Agency** (UTA) in its:
  - acquisition of European soccer agency Representatives of Outstanding Footballers (ROOF)
  - acquisition of a significant stake in agent Rich Paul's Klutch Sports, which represents LeBron James and other top NBA athletes, and the formation of a UTA sports division
- **United Talent Agency** and **Klutch Sports Group** in the:
  - acquisition of Tidal Sports Group
  - acquisition of Revolution Sports
- **Ares Capital Management LLC** in its significant investment in LiveBarn
- **Clients** in the acquisitions and sales of their interests in major league sports franchises and related businesses, including regional sports networks
- **Minnesota Vikings Football LLC** (MVF LLC), which included the controlling owner Zygmunt Wilf and other investors, in its $600 million acquisition of the Minnesota Vikings Football Club, Inc. In connection with the acquisition, Skadden also represented certain limited partner investors of MVF LLC with a $190 million project finance credit facility provided by Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation for the partial acquisition financing
- **Liberty Media Corporation** in:
  - the tax aspects of a tax-free split-off transaction in which it exchanged 60 million shares of its Time Warner Inc. stock (valued at $1.5 billion) for all of Time Warner's interest in an entity that owns the Atlanta Braves baseball team, a group of craft magazines and $1 billion in cash
  - the tax aspects of its split-off of the Atlanta Braves and the real estate surrounding the Braves' stadium into a separate, publicly traded company, Atlanta Braves Holdings Inc.
- **Group Lotus plc** and **Art Grand Prix SAS**, a Formula One racing team in France, in a joint venture to create GP2 and GP3 car racing teams
- **Jon Bon Jovi** in his bid to acquire the Buffalo Bills franchise and other potential investments and joint ventures
- **Ourgame International Holdings Ltd.** in its $35 million acquisition of Peerless Media Limited, the owner and operator of the "World Poker Tour"
- **Sport Service Deutschland AG** in its acquisition of a 90% stake in Frankfurt Lions "Die Löwen" Eishockey GmbH, a hockey team based in Germany
- **Toto Wolff** in:
  - his increased stake in the Mercedes-AMG Petronas Formula One team
  - sale of a minority stake in Williams Grand Prix Holdings and of a minority stake in HWA AG
  - acquisition of a significant minority stake Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix Ltd., the company operating the Mercedes F1 team
- **Total Sports Consulting LLC** in its sale of a controlling interest to Oak View Group
- **Vulcan** in its:
  - sale of *Sporting News* to American City Business Journals
  - sale of *Sporting News* radio station affiliate KMPC (Los Angeles) to Radio Korea
- **Williams Invest Holdings Ltd.** in connection with:
  - the IPO of Williams Grand Prix Holdings
  - its acquisition of a minority stake in Williams F1

Partnerships, Joint Ventures and Consortia

- **The National Basketball Association, Inc.** in connection with its global long-term partnership with, and 3% equity investment in, Sportradar Group AG
- **The NHL** in connection with its multiyear strategic partnership with PointsBet and a related equity investment; and sponsor-

ship and marketing agreements with Ticketmaster, DraftKings, FanDuel, MGM and William Hill, including, with respect to DraftKings, a related equity investment

- **TEAM8** in its joint venture with the United States Tennis Association and Tennis Australia, among others, to form the Laver Cup, a team tennis competition between regional teams of top professional players from Europe and the rest of the world
- **CME Group Inc.** in its joint venture with FanDuel Inc. under which CME and FanDuel will operate a futures commission merchant (FCM) that will facilitate access to event-based contracts through a FanDuel trading app
- **The Walt Disney Company** in:
  - ESPN's sale of a majority stake in the X Games action sports franchise to MSP Sports Capital
  - establishing its partnership with Major League Baseball and the National Hockey League to form the streaming media company BAMTech, and its acquisition of a controlling interest in BAMTech
- **Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.** in its:
  - $300 million acquisition of a 40% stake in the Yankees Entertainment and Sports Network (YES)
  - sale of a stake in YES to News Corporation
  - subsequent sale of an additional stake to News Corporation
- **Singer Vehicle Design** in its partnership with CrossHarbor Capital Partners to create a premier motorsports destination at Willow Springs International Raceway in California

Commercial Matters

- **The PGA TOUR** in:
  - matters relating to its multiyear broadcast agreements with NBC and Comcast/Golf Channel, including strategies relating to extensions of, or replacements for, existing media agreements
  - its creation of an international multiplatform alliance with Discovery to which Discovery is expected to invest more than $2 billion over the course of the 12-year alliance, including licensing of the PGA TOUR's international media rights and building a global OTT platform available outside the United States
  - contemplated strategic partnerships for data licensing
- **The Ladies Professional Golf Association** (LPGA) in:
  - its media rights dispute and ultimate extension with international rights partner JTBC
  - arbitration with JTBC over an alleged failure to provide sponsorship benefits under a multiyear agreement and allegations that the LPGA's licensing practices violate anti-competition laws
- **SharkNinja, Inc.** in an endorsement and branding deal with Tom Brady
- **First National Bank** in the expansion of its long-term sponsorship agreement with the Pittsburgh Penguins, including becoming the Penguins' exclusive banking and financial services partner and official jersey patch sponsor for all home and road games
- **The National Hockey League** (NHL) as general outside counsel, advising on various legal issues in areas such as league governance, broadcasting, ticketing, events, licensing and sponsorships, including:
  - in connection with the new distress filing of Main Street Sports Group, LLC
  - advising the NHL commissioner as arbitrator in connection with a variety of nonpublic arbitrations for alleged violations of league rules or policies
  - with respect to the Winter Classic and Stadium Series
  - in a number of sponsorship and marketing agreements
  - in its headquarters lease of 160,000 square feet of office space and 15,000 square feet of retail space at One Manhattan West
  - in its negotiation of the extension of its collective bargaining agreement (CBA) with the NHL Players Association. The four-year extension, signed in July 2020 alongside a return-to-play agreement, included novel provisions necessitated in part by the COVID-19 pandemic and guarantees an unprecedented period of labor peace in the NHL
- **Hyundai Motor Company** in connection with its long-term top-tier sponsorship agreement with FIFA, which includes sponsorships of the Men's and Women's World Cups
- **Visa Inc.** in its collaboration with Crypto.com to host the auctioning of non-fungible tokens (NFTs) in connection with FIFA
- **The PGA of America** in connection with:
  - its strategic partnership agreement with Legends, pursuant to which Legends will operate and elevate on-site, online,

licensing and corporate merchandising for the PGA's spectator championships
  - pre-litigation counseling involving two separate sponsorship and rights fees disputes
  - sponsorship and co-branding agreements
  - developing the PGA's integrity policy
- **The National Football League**, **National Hockey League** and **Major League Soccer** in protecting and enforcing the valuable intellectual property rights of the leagues and their member teams, including counselling on copyright and trademark infringement matters and strategies for IP protection and enforcement
- **Miami Marlins** in:
  - its extensive partnership with ADT, pursuant to which ADT became the first official jersey patch partner of the Marlins
  - various corporate matters, including capital raises
- **The NBA** on payment rights and obligations under its existing U.S. national broadcast agreement
- **Major League Soccer** in:
  - negotiating and drafting the terms of a league-wide group license agreement with the players union
  - connection with a multiyear partnership with FanDuel, including the creation of a retail sportsbook at Audi Field and DC United naming FanDuel its exclusive sports betting sponsor
- **The NBA**, **NHL**, **MLS**, **USTA**, **PGA of America** and **NFL** on ticketing issues related to COVID-19 pandemic postponements and cancellations
- **The NBA**, **NHL**, **MLS**, **MLB**, **NFL**, **USTA**, **PGA of America**, **Madison Square Garden**, **Barclays Center**, **Tampa Bay Buccaneers** and **other clients** on return to play and related reopening issues
- **An international talent agency** and **event promoter** on ticketing, sports and intellectual property issues
- **An international golf association**:
  - in connection with a dispute involving a major sponsor in a luxury brand category, and helped the client negotiate a favorable early termination
  - in negotiating and drafting a long-term agreement with a new sponsor in the same category
- **A significant minority investor** in connection with his investment in and exit from On Location Experiences, the premium sports and entertainment hospitality provider
- **A financial institution** in a long-term sponsorship for a Major League Baseball team
- **Major sports leagues and organizations** with respect to league sponsorship agreements and the licensing of trademarks and data
- **Michael Winger** in connection with his appointment as president of the Los Angeles Clippers
- **The NBA** and **the NHL** in creating league-wide disability insurance programs covering the salary of athletes in each league
- **The New York Knicks** and **the New York Rangers** on ticketing and related matters, and the defeat of a challenge to both teams' implementation of purchase limits for season tickets

Litigation Matters

- **The PGA TOUR** in the successful defense of antitrust litigation brought by former TOUR members and the LIV golf league, defeating a temporary restraining order that sought to enjoin the enforcement of TOUR rules and discipline, and securing a fully favorable dismissal with prejudice of the claims against the TOUR
- **Major League Baseball**, **the National Football League**, **the National Basketball Association**, **the National Hockey League** and **the National Collegiate Athletic Association** in securing a Third Circuit affirmance of a lower court's decision granting the sports leagues' motion for summary judgment and issuing a permanent injunction preventing New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie's proposed sports wagering scheme from taking effect
- **The United States Hockey League** in securing a favorable resolution of a dispute related to the enforcement of league rules
- **Miami Heat** in connection with three separate suspensions of six-time NBA All-Star Jimmy Butler and in the related grievance filed by Butler challenging all three of the suspensions
- **FanDuel**, **Fanatics Holdings** and **Caesars** in securing the dismissal of a high-stakes sports gambling lawsuit filed by DC Gambling Recovery in the Superior Court of Washington D.C., in which plaintiff sought recovery of alleged sports wagering losses. After removing the case to federal court, Skadden moved to dismiss the complaint, arguing that the Sports Wagering Act authorizes licensed sports betting and that the U.S. Supreme Court invalidated PASPA's restrictions

- **USA Swimming** in obtaining the dismissal of an antitrust complaint filed by Enhanced Group in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, alleging a conspiracy to undermine participation in the 2026 Enhanced Games
- **The LPGA Tour** in obtaining the dismissal of an antitrust complaint filed by Enhanced Group in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, alleging a conspiracy to undermine participation in the 2026 Enhanced Games
- **Columbia University** in securing the dismissal of a putative antitrust class action filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut alleging that Columbia and other Ivy League universities violated antitrust law by agreeing not to award athletic scholarships
- **Brian Kelly** in securing a full payout of liquidated damages under the terms of his employment contract, following a lawsuit filed in Louisiana state court, alleging that Coach Kelly was terminated without cause
- **FanDuel** in connection with filing a petition for a writ of certiorari in the U.S. Supreme Court to seek review of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit's decision in *Salazar v. National Basketball Association*, No. 23-1147 (2d Cir.), along with filing of a petition to the U.S. Supreme Court requesting a review of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit's decision in *Salazar v. National Basketball Association*
- **National Collegiate Athletic Association**, **National Basketball Association**, **National Football League**, **National Hockey League** and **Major League Baseball** in obtaining a favorable settlement of claims by the New Jersey Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association (NJTHA) to recover the bond paid by the sports leagues to secure an injunction that had barred NJTHA from conducting sports betting operations
- **The National Basketball Association**, **National Football League**, **National Hockey League** and **Major League Baseball** in the submission of an *amicus* brief to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, in which TV networks claimed that Aereokiller violated copyright laws by retransmitting their signals to users' personal computing devices
- **Brooklyn Nets, LLC** in connection with:
  - favorably settling both a federal antitrust action and a related putative class action filed in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York in connection with the Nets' termination of season ticket subscriptions
  - a potential dispute with player Kyrie Irving, who elected not to obtain a COVID-19 vaccine, which made him ineligible to play in Nets home games under New York City law
- **Head USA, Inc.** in its successful defense of claims by Bode Miller and Bomber, LLC seeking to invalidate Head's sponsorship agreements with high-profile athletes. The court granted Head's motion to dismiss all of plaintiffs' claims
- **Major League Soccer** in several separate enforcement matters involving MLS' portfolio of trademarks and copyrights
- **The National Basketball Association**:
  - in connection with filing a petition for a writ of certiorari in the U.S. Supreme Court to seek review of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit's decision in *Salazar v. National Basketball Association*, No. 23-1147 (2d Cir.), along with filing of a petition to the U.S. Supreme Court requesting a review of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit's decision in *Salazar v. National Basketball Association*
  - in securing a favorable resolution related to a trademark dispute pending in the Southern District of New York and representation in various IP enforcement matters
  - and **Commissioner Adam Silver** in securing the dismissal of an appeal of former Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling's lawsuit challenging a fine and lifetime ban — both imposed by the NBA after a recording of him making numerous racist comments was released to the media — prohibiting his involvement in the business operations or management of the Clippers
  - and the **Denver Nuggets**, the **Indiana Pacers**, the **New Jersey Nets** and the **San Antonio Spurs** in securing the settlement of New York state breach of contract claims involving the distribution of media rights revenue filed by the Spirits of St. Louis, a former member team of the American Basketball Association
  - in defense of a wrongful death lawsuit bought on behalf of a former G-league player
  - in a declaratory class action lawsuit against the National Basketball Players Association and all NBA Players, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York in connection with the NBA's lockout. The lawsuit sought to establish, among other things, that the NBA's lockout was not a violation of federal antitrust laws and that if the Players Association decertified or disclaimed interest in its role as exclusive bargaining representative of NBA players, and that action were

found to be valid under federal labor law, then all existing player contracts would become void and unenforceable. Skadden also served as lead counsel defending the NBA against two antitrust lawsuits brought by the NBA players challenging the NBA lockout. In December 2011, the National Basketball Players Association and the NBA ratified a new collective bargaining agreement

- **The National Collegiate Athletic Association** in:
  - a federal antitrust class action by Division I football and men's basketball players challenging the NCAA's amateurism rules barring compensation for athletes other than educational expenses
  - securing a Ninth Circuit affirmance of final approval of a $209 million settlement of the damages portion of the "grant-in-aid" class action antitrust lawsuit brought by NCAA Division I FBS football and men's and women's basketball student-athletes. The multidistrict litigation, originally filed in 2014 against the NCAA and 11 Division I conferences, challenges NCAA rules limiting the value of an athletic "grant-in-aid"
- **The National Football League** in:
  - numerous matters involving enforcement of the NFL's portfolio of trademarks and copyrights
  - securing the dismissal of a federal personal injury class action filed by 10 retired NFL players, including Hall of Fame defensive end Richard Dent, who alleged that the NFL and its teams improperly provided prescription pain-killers and anti-inflammatories to players through team physicians and trainers in order to push players back to the field, to the detriment of their long-term health
  - obtaining dismissal of claims brought by seven photographers against the NFL companies, the Associated Press, Getty Images, and Replay Photos alleging the defendants conspired to restrain trade in the market for the commercial licensing of NFL-themed photos, in violation of the Sherman Act
- **NFL Properties LLC** and the **Las Vegas Raiders** (LVR) in securing the favorable settlement of a trademark infringement suit filed in the U.S. District Court of Nevada. The dispute was brought by the Las Vegas-based Dimopoulos law firm, who sought a declaratory judgment that it did not infringe the NFLP's or Raiders' trademarks and trade dress, which were used in a television commercial for the firm
- **The NFL** and **New England Patriots** in:
  - pursuing a claim against a former player for the return of the player's signing bonus after the player failed to disclose his involvement in criminal activity during contract negotiations
  - a successful arbitration brought by a player seeking to recover his signing bonus, which was withheld by the team after he was accused of sexual assault
- **The National Football League** (NFL) and **several NFL Clubs** in several System Arbitrations relating to player compensation disputes, including:
  - the **Tampa Bay Buccaneers** in an arbitration involving Tampa Bay player Shaq Barrett in a dispute involving whether the club's fifth-year option tender for Barrett should have been valued as an interior lineman instead of a defensive end
  - the **New York Jets** and **New York Giants** in arbitrations against former Jet/current Giant Leonard Williams involving disputes over whether the Jets' fifth-year option tender or the Giants' franchise tag for Williams wrongly valued him as an interior lineman instead of a defensive end
  - the **New York Jets** and the **Seattle Seahawks** in an arbitration against former Jet Sheldon Richardson involving a dispute over whether the Jets' fifth-year option tender for Richardson wrongly valued him as an interior lineman instead of a defensive end
  - the **Atlanta Falcons** in connection with a claim for the return of a substantial portion of a signing bonus as a result of the player's suspension from the NFL
  - the **Seattle Seahawks** in a proceeding to recover the singing bonus paid to a player who became unable to render playing services after an ATV accident
- **The National Hockey League**:
  - in securing a favorable settlement of a trademark and copyright infringement suit involving the league's rights to the Stanley Cup trophy
  - as lead MDL counsel and coordinating counsel in a proceeding asserting personal injury claims on behalf of all former NHL hockey players against claims that the NHL did not properly inform players of alleged long-term consequences from head trauma. Skadden also took the lead on all discovery-related

matters in the litigation and has challenged plaintiffs' efforts to use the class action device to shield individual claimants from discovery. Discovery is complicated in this litigation because it spans a very long period, involving both e-discovery and hard copy documents going back to the 1950s

- in a federally consolidated class action brought by consumers of online fantasy sports-betting websites FanDuel and Draft Kings alleging purported federal RICO and state law violations
- in the successful negotiation and drafting of a new CBA with the NHL Players' Association
- in a class action lawsuit alleging violations of federal antitrust laws, including for conspiracy and monopolization, in connection with the NHL improperly eliminating competition in the distribution of live men's hockey games on television and over the internet

- **The New York Mets** in their successful salary arbitration against J.D. Davis, the first salary arbitration win for the Mets in team history
- **Pro-Football, Inc. (the Washington Commanders)** and **WFI Stadium, Inc.** in securing a precedent-setting victory before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, regarding whether the Commanders' arbitration clause binds fans who entered the stadium using tickets presented on someone else's smartphone
- **The PGA TOUR** in:
  - securing the dismissal with prejudice of a federal antitrust complaint brought by 168 caddies at the TOUR's golf tournaments alleging that, by requiring caddies to wear bibs that often include the tournament sponsor's corporate logo, the TOUR violated antitrust laws, the Lanham Act and the caddies' rights of publicity
  - securing dismissal of tortious interference claims relating to the use and development of land adjacent to Liberty National Golf Course, the frequent site of a PGA TOUR FedEx Cup playoff tournament
  - a lawsuit filed by golfer Vijay Singh related to the administration and implementation of the TOUR's anti-doping policy following an investigation into Singh's use of deer-antler spray
- **Rory McIlroy** in a lawsuit brought by Oakley, Inc., a former sponsor, related to an endorsement agreement between McIlroy and Nike, Inc.

Stadium and Arena Matters

- **Miami Marlins** in its agreement with loanDepot to change the name of its stadium from Marlins Park to loanDepot Park
- **MetLife, Inc.** in connection with its 25-year deal to name the New Meadowlands Stadium, where the National Football League's New York Jets and Giants play, MetLife Stadium
- **FirstEnergy Corp.** in its partnership with the Cleveland Browns, in which the team's venue is now called FirstEnergy Stadium
- **Goldman Sachs** in:
  - a construction term loan facility for Audi Field, a soccer-specific stadium in Washington, D.C. for the D.C. United
  - a term loan financing to provide funding for the construction of a soccer specific stadium for the Nashville SC MLS club
- **The Minnesota Vikings** in a development agreement and stadium funding legislation related to U.S. Bank Stadium
- **The National Hockey League** in connection with the:
  - New Jersey Devils financing of the Prudential Center in downtown Newark, N.J.
  - refinancing of the New Jersey Devils' and the Prudential Center Arena's credit facilities. As part of the transaction, the owners of the Devils and the arena also entered into a series of transactions to consolidate and restructure the ownership of the entities
  - ownership and club and arena financing transactions for the Pittsburgh Penguins
  - ownership and club and arena financing transactions for the St. Louis Blues
- **The senior secured lenders** in a revolving loan facility to finance the renovation of Arrowhead Stadium, the home of the Kansas City Chiefs
- **The Sumitomo Bank, Limited** as agent in the $145 million financing of Comerica Park for the Detroit Tigers
- **The Sumitomo Bank, Limited** and **Bank of America**, N.A. in the $155 million financing of the construction of FedEx Field. Skadden also represented the agent in connection with refinancing a loan as part of the sale of the stadium and the Washington Redskins to entities controlled by Dan Snyder

Financing Matters

- **Espai Barça, Fondo de Titulización**, a special purpose vehicle established by Futbol Club Barcelona, in a €424 million private placement of Series B 5.190% senior notes due 2050
- **Citibank, N.A.** as a lender in a bank financing for the Houston Astros and in the acquisition financing for James R. Crane's acquisition of the Houston Astros
- **The National Hockey League** in connection with:
  - a series of capital transactions by the Nashville Predators, which included an internal restructuring by the owners of the team and a series of capital financings. Following the consummation of the capital transactions, a new owner was brought in to join the existing ownership group
  - two transactions by the Carolina Hurricanes, which involved several new owners and ownership groups being brought in to join the existing club's ownership group
  - the Atlanta Thrashers financing matters
  - the NHL's $225 million secured revolving credit facility
- **A syndicate of underwriters led by Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC**, **Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC**, **Canaccord Genuity LLC** and **Macquarie Capital (USA) Inc.** in a $186 million cross-border public offering of Class A subordinate voting shares in the United States and Canada by Score Media and Gaming Inc., representing Score's IPO in the U.S. and listing on Nasdaq
- **Various companies and sports leagues** in connection with the minting, marketing and selling of NFTs, as well as the sale of advertising and promotional opportunities to digital asset companies
- **Williams Invest Holdings Ltd** in connection with Williams Grand Prix Holdings PLC's €250 million IPO of shares and listing on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange. Skadden also represented Williams Grand Prix Holdings with certain aspects of the IPO. This was the first-ever Formula One racing team to conduct an IPO
- **Goldman Sachs Lending Partners LLC** in a bridge loan facility provided to the majority owner of a U.S.-based professional sports team
- **IMS Sports & Entertainment**, backed by IMS Digital Ventures, in connection with investment advisory activity and fund formation