Proskauer

Proskauer Advises MLS in Signing Lionel Messi

July 21, 2023

NEW YORK, July 21, 2023 – Proskauer, a leading international law firm, announced today that it advised Major League Soccer (MLS) in its agreements with soccer icon Lionel Messi, a seven-time Ballon d'Or winner and FIFA World Cup champion, to play for Inter Miami FC. Messi, who will occupy a Designated Player slot, is under contract with MLS through the 2025 season.

Messi, who won the 2022 World Cup with Argentina seven months ago, recently became a free agent after spending the last two years at French powerhouse Paris Saint-Germain. His arrival builds on MLS' commitment to being the League of Choice for the world's elite players. Messi joins the MLS club that is owned by Jose Mas, Jorge Mas and David Beckham. Proskauer previously advised MLS in 2007, when the League signed Beckham, and in 2018 when ownership was awarded the expansion team.

Earlier this year, Proskauer also advised MLS on the League's expansion to San Diego. The San Diego Club will become the 30th team in the League and marked the 20th expansion transaction that Proskauer has handled for MLS.

The Proskauer team advising MLS was led by partners Jon Oram and Jason Krochak (Sports Law); partners Amanda Nussbaum and Janicelynn Park (Tax); associates Arthur Burke and Eric Zilber (Sports Law); and associate Aaron Lee (Tax).

About Proskauer

We are 800+ lawyers serving clients from 12 offices located in the leading financial and business centers in the Americas, Europe and Asia. We work with asset managers, private equity and venture capital firms, Fortune 500 and FTSE companies, major sports leagues, entertainment industry legends and industry-redefining companies.

Since 1875, Proskauer has been devoted to our clients' successes. Our lawyers are known for their unusually high accessibility, responsiveness and attentiveness. We go the extra mile to understand a client's business — and think like savvy businesspeople in the process.

For more than 55 years, Proskauer has advised the world's premier sports organizations on their most critical and complex matters. Our lawyers play a pivotal role in the transactions, negotiations and litigations that are at the leading edge of the business of sports.

Related Professionals

- **Amanda H. Nussbaum**
  Partner
- **Janicelynn Asamoto Park**
  Partner
- **Arthur Burke**
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- **Muhyung (Aaron) Lee**
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