



Contact

Frank A. Saviano

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Frank Saviano is a partner in the Corporate Department and a member of the Sports Law Group.

Frank is a trusted advisor and counsel to many prominent organizations in sports and media on their most critical and complex matters. He represents these clients in a wide array of corporate matters, including media rights, team acquisitions and sales, strategic investments and related transactions, joint ventures, arena and stadium development, financings, sponsorships and other significant commercial transactions. Frank has advised on sports media rights deals with an aggregate value of nearly \$20 billion, including many of the most significant sports media deals of the last decade.

Frank's experience includes representing the National Basketball Association, the National Hockey League, Major League Soccer, the National Football League, NASCAR, the United States Golf Association, the ATP Tour, the WTA Tour, IndyCar, the BIG EAST Conference and the Pac-12 Conference, as well as a number of professional sports teams and owners, private equity firms, financial institutions, media networks and content distribution companies, in their significant transactional matters.

In 2019, Frank was inducted into *SportsBusiness Journal's* Hall of Fame after being

named to its "Forty Under 40" list of the most influential executives in the sports industry for 2015, 2018 and 2019. He has also been recognized by various other organizations and publications as a leading individual and rising star in the sports industry, including *Variety*, *Leaders in Sport*, *Law360*, *The Legal 500* and *Euromoney*. He was honored on *Variety*'s "Dealmakers List" in 2019, recognizing the executives behind the biggest deals in media and entertainment. In addition, Frank has been recognized as one of the top sports lawyers in the country by *Chambers USA*.

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Matters

Sports Team M&A

- Ownership of the Carolina Panthers in the sale to David Tepper
- Shahid Khan in the acquisition of the Jacksonville Jaguars
- Alan Kestenbaum in an investment in the Atlanta Falcons
- NBA in its acquisition and subsequent sale of the New Orleans Hornets
- Olympique Lyonnais Groupe in the acquisition of Reign FC

Sports and Media Strategic M&A

- Blackstone Tactical Opportunities in its investment in Yankees Entertainment and Sports Network (YES)
- Soccer United Marketing (the media and marketing affiliate of MLS) in an investment by Providence Equity Partners and the subsequent repurchase of Providence Equity's stake
- Bruin Sports Capital and RedBird Capital Partners in a transaction with the National Football League to form On Location Experiences
- Bruin Sports Capital in its acquisition of deltatre, a sports digital media company

- Ownership of the Detroit Pistons in the formation of 313 Presents, an entertainment joint venture with the owners of the Red Wings to manage concert venues in the greater Detroit area.
- Soccer United Marketing in equity investments in SeatGeek and Fanatics

Media Rights

- NASCAR in its media rights agreements with FOX and NBC
- MLS and the United States Soccer Federation in its media rights agreements with ESPN, Fox and Univision
- USGA in its media rights agreement with FOX
- Pac-12 Conference in its media rights agreements with ESPN and FOX and the launch of the Pac-12 Network
- BIG EAST Conference its media rights agreement with FOX
- IndyCar Series in its media rights agreement with NBC
- Detroit Pistons in its local media rights agreement with FOX
- Orlando Magic in its local media rights agreement with FOX

Other Significant Transactions

- New York Islanders in the lease and development of the Belmont Park Arena
- NASCAR in the development of its landmark charter membership system with its Sprint Cup Series teams
- Los Angeles 2028 Organizing Committee in its groundbreaking partnership with NBCUniversal for the sale of Olympic sponsorship opportunities
- BIG EAST Conference in the establishment of the “new” BIG EAST Conference, including its agreement with Madison Square Garden and negotiations with incoming member institutions
- Detroit Pistons in arena lease negotiations for their relocation to the Little Caesars Arena in downtown Detroit

Practices

Corporate/Transactional, Private Equity Transactions, Mergers & Acquisitions

Industries

Asset Management , Sports, Private Equity, Technology, Media & Telecommunications

Education

University of Virginia Law School, J.D., 2009

Trinity College, B.A., 2003

Phi Beta Kappa

Admissions & Qualifications

New York

Awards & Recognition

New York Super Lawyers Rising Star 2020

Chambers USA: Nationwide: Sports Law 2015-2020

SportsBusiness Journal "Forty Under 40" Hall of Fame, 2019

"Forty Under 40" SportsBusiness Journal 2015, 2018, 2019

"Leaders Under 40" Leaders in Sport 2017

Variety: Dealmakers Elite 2017

Variety: Dealmakers Impact Report 2019

Rising Star, Media & Entertainment, Euromoney 2018

Rising Star, Sports, Law360 2018

The Legal 500 United States: Sports: Next Generation Lawyer 2019-2020

The Legal 500 United States: Media, Technology and Telecoms: Telecoms and

Broadcast: Transactional 2019-2020