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## Dean Logan's Blog: Taking on the NCAA

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# ***Dean Logan's Blog***

## **Taking on the NCAA**

Posted by David Logan on 04/16/2014 at 05:15 PM

Without doubt, one of the most beleaguered institutions in the United States is the National Collegiate Athletic Association. From the threat of athletes unionizing <http://grantland.com/features/northwestern-ncaa-college-athletics-union/>, to defending claims that it improperly took advantage of the intellectual property rights of athletes <http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/college-football/news/20140220/ed-obannon-lawsuit-proceeds-to-trial/>, to harsh critiques of the commercialization of college athletics <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/04/06/sports/ncaabasketball/financial-rewards-of-ncaas-sponsorship-deals-arent-shared-with-players.html>, the NCAA is always in the news these days, and rarely in a good way. (Heck, the organization even bans cups with kitty cats on them from the Final 4! <http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304157204579473352891772622>.) There is also a RWU Law connection: one of our alums is in long-running litigation with the organization. <http://www.cbssports.com/columns/story/21563406/potential-landmark-cases-make-these-perilous-times-for-the-ncaa>.

So it was a propitious time for RWU Law to bring together experts to discuss the topic "Should there be some form of judicial - or other independent - review of NCAA enforcement actions?" Organized by an antitrust expert on the RWU Law faculty, Carl Bogus, the audience of law students and practitioners heard from top legal historian Gordon Hylton (Marquette); Donna Lopianno, the president of Sports Management Resources and previously the director of women's athletics at the University of Texas-Austin and CEO of the Women's Sports Foundation; Alan Milstein, a prominent litigation attorney and frequent media commentator of Sports Law topics; Brian Porto, a professor at the Vermont Law School, and deputy director of its Sports Law Institute; and Terri Peretti, a professor of political science at Santa Clara University and an expert on the Supreme Court of the United States.

Perhaps the best way to summarize the theme of the event comes from this tweet:

**Michael J. Yelnosky** [@MichaelYelnosky](#)

RWU Law Symposium presenter: "Blow up the NCAA. After fall of Soviet Union, one of last remaining dictatorships." [pic.twitter.com/uNVdA99XIL](https://pic.twitter.com/uNVdA99XIL)