



Adam R. Klein

Partner

Sports and Sports Facilities

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Adam Klein counsels a wide range of clients nationwide on matters related to the business of professional sports, including various Major League Baseball, National Basketball Association, National Hockey League and Major League Soccer teams, arenas and stadiums, lenders, investors, sponsors and regional sports networks.

Major league clients

Adam's sports clients have included the Chicago White Sox, Chicago Bulls, Oakland Athletics, Philadelphia Phillies, St. Louis Blues, New York Islanders, Seattle Kraken, Golden State Warriors, Sacramento Kings, Milwaukee Bucks, Boston Celtics, Detroit Pistons, Atlanta Hawks, Miami Heat, Memphis Grizzlies, Charlotte Hornets, Oklahoma City Thunder, San Antonio Spurs, Chicago Fire, D.C. United, Philadelphia Union, San Jose Earthquakes, United Center, Chase Center, Golden 1 Center, Fiserv Forum, Intuit Dome and 120 Sports (Stadium), as well as investors in the New York Mets, Denver Broncos, Pittsburgh Penguins and Swansea City AFC.

In the highly self-regulated field of professional sports, Adam has the experience to handle a variety of transactions with maximum efficiency. That is attributable in part to his detailed knowledge of applicable league rules and the issues related to operating a team and its home venue. Equally important are the strong relationships that Adam has established across leagues, teams, venues and their advisors. His clients understand and appreciate the vested interest he takes in helping them make informed decisions in connection with significant transactions.

Representative Experience

- Represented purchaser in acquiring the Dallas Mavericks. Negotiated and documented the acquisition, equity structure, bank financing and NBA's approval of the transaction.
- Represented purchaser in acquiring the Charlotte Hornets. Negotiated and documented the acquisition, equity structure, bank financing and NBA's approval of the transaction.

Practices

- Capital Markets
- Corporate
- Corporate Governance
- Mergers and Acquisitions

Industries

- Private Client Services
- Sports and Sports Facilities

Education

- JD, Harvard Law School
- BS, Cornell University

Bar Admissions

- Illinois

Community Involvements

- American Bar Association

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- Represent the Los Angeles Clippers in various agreements related to the development, financing, use, operation and management of the team's proposed new arena (the Intuit Dome), as well as obtaining NBA approval of the arena project and arena construction loan. Also represent the team and arena in sponsorship agreements (including naming rights agreement for the arena and jersey patch deal for the team), concessions agreement and ticketing agreement.
- Represented the United States Soccer Federation in its broadcast rights agreement with Warner Media for broadcast of U.S. Men's and Women's National Team soccer matches on TNT, TBS and HBO Max.
- Represented owners of the Utah Jazz in the sale of the team. Included negotiating and documenting the sale and NBA's approval of the transaction. Represent sellers in post-closing matters.
- Represented minority owners joining the purchaser group that acquired the Denver Broncos.
- Represented purchaser in acquiring the new NHL team in Seattle (Seattle Kraken). Negotiated and documented the expansion agreement, equity financing, debt financing and various agreements related to the development, financing and use of Climate Pledge Arena, including the arena joint venture and team lease agreement, and a construction loan for development of the Kraken's new practice facility, as well as the NHL's approval of the transactions. Represent the team in sponsorships, premium seating, telecast and radio broadcast rights agreements and merchandise agreement, as well as the purchase of, and the Kraken's affiliation agreement with, an AHL team in Palm Springs (Coachella Valley Firebirds) and agreements related to the financing and use of Acrisure Arena.
- Represented owners of Kansas City Royals in the sale of the team. Included negotiating and documenting the sale and MLB's approval of the transaction.
- Represented the Phoenix Suns in their naming rights agreement with Footprint Center.
- Represented the Milwaukee Bucks in various agreements with the Wisconsin Center District, City of Milwaukee, County of Milwaukee and a financial institution related to the design, construction, development, financing, use, operation and management of the team's new arena (Fiserv Forum), parking facilities and practice facility, as well as obtaining NBA approval of the arena project and arena construction loan. Also represent the team in sponsorship agreements (including naming rights agreements for the arena and practice facility) and acquisition of Gatorade League (formerly known as NBA Development League) team (Wisconsin Herd) and the arena

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"He is a go-to lawyer who has one of the best practices in the country." "Adam is a superb lawyer."

**Chambers USA 2023
(USA Nationwide, Sports Law
Department) survey response**

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in its concessions agreements. Represented the Bucks in new rights agreement for the broadcast of its games on Bally Sports Wisconsin, debt financing and equity transactions.

- Represented purchaser of a majority interest in D.C. United and the operating rights to Audi Field. Negotiated and documented the equity financing, debt financing, acquisition and MLS approval.
- Represented the Atlanta Hawks, Miami Heat, Oklahoma City Thunder, San Antonio Spurs, Miami Marlins, Detroit Tigers, Detroit Red Wings and Los Angeles Kings in negotiating, documenting and obtaining League approval for new rights agreements for the broadcast of the teams' games by the applicable Bally Sports (Diamond/Sinclair) regional sports network.
- Represented purchaser in acquiring a significant minority interest, and then a controlling interest, in the New York Islanders. Negotiated and documented the acquisition and joint venture with the seller as well as the lenders' and NHL's approval of the transaction. Also represent the controlling ownership group and the team in equity and debt transactions, respectively.
- Represented purchaser of a minority interest in Charlotte Hornets, Atlanta Hawks and Phoenix Suns (and the sale of such interest in the Suns) and seller of a minority interest in the Memphis Grizzlies.
- Represent the Philadelphia Phillies in connection with equity, partnership and real estate matters. Represented Philadelphia Phillies in negotiating, documenting and obtaining MLB approval for a long-term rights agreement for the broadcast of the team's games by the regional sports network NBC Sports Philadelphia, a short-term rights agreement for the broadcast of the team's games by an over-the-air station controlled by NBCUniversal, a new long-term sponsorship agreement with Comcast and agreements related to an ownership stake in the regional sports network.
- Represented purchaser in acquiring the Sacramento Kings. Negotiated and documented the acquisition, the equity structure, the debt financing extension and the NBA's approval of the transaction (as well as the NBA's approval to keep the team in Sacramento and, therefore, rejection of relocation of the team to Seattle proposed by a competing bidder). Represent the Kings in new head coach's and other basketball and non-basketball operations personnel's employment agreements. Represented the Kings in a new long-term rights agreement for the broadcast of its games on a regional sports network. Represent the team and its affiliates in various debt financing transactions, sponsorship agreements and suite licenses. Represent the team in its new arena (Golden 1 Center) and mixed-

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used development activities, including negotiating and documenting land acquisition, arena and tower construction loans, various agreements with the City of Sacramento and others related to the design, construction, development, financing, use, operation and management of the new arena, and NBA approval of the arena project, as well as the arena's naming rights agreement, concessions agreement and refinancing the bonds related to the team's former home arena. Represented the team in the acquisition of an expansion Gatorade League team (Reno Bighorns) and the Sacramento River Cats minor league baseball team.

- Represented purchaser in acquiring the Golden State Warriors. Negotiated and documented the acquisition, equity structure, bank financing and NBA's approval of the transaction. Represent the Warriors in a new long-term rights agreement for the broadcast of its games on a regional sports network, new head coach's and other basketball and non-basketball operations personnel's employment agreements, participation in NBA's League-Wide Credit Facility, other debt financing and raising equity. Represented the team in the acquisition of Gatorade League's Dakota Wizards and its relocation to Santa Cruz. Represent the team in its major sponsorship deals and new arena (Chase Center) and mixed-use development activities, including the new arena's naming rights agreement, concessions agreement, land acquisition financing, construction loan, retail financing, team use agreement and arena membership program, NBA approval of the arena project, and the team's joint venture with Uber and Alexandria Real Estate Equities for the development of two office towers.
- Represented note purchasers in refinancing construction loan for Levi's Stadium (home of the San Francisco 49ers).
- Represented note purchasers in refinancing construction loan for BMO Stadium (home of Los Angeles FC).
- Represented lead minority investor in the New York Mets in negotiating, documenting and obtaining MLB and bank approval of equity financing and related equity transactions.
- Represented the Boston Celtics in negotiating, documenting and obtaining NBA approval for a new long-term rights agreement for the broadcast of the team's games by a regional sports network, an extension to a sponsorship agreement with the network and agreements related to an ownership stake in the network.
- Represented the Detroit Pistons and Palace of Auburn Hills in the sale of the team and the arena, including negotiated and documented

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the sale, retained equity, indebtedness and NBA approval of the transaction. Represent sellers in post-closing matters.

- Represented purchaser in acquiring the Oakland Athletics. Negotiated and documented the acquisition, equity structure, bank financing and MLB's approval of the transaction. Represented the As in participating in MLB's League-Wide Credit Facility, refinancing its bank credit facility and a new radio broadcast agreement, as well as a change in control transaction (including documenting the transaction and obtaining MLB approval). Represented the As in a new long-term rights agreement for the broadcast of its games on a regional sports network. Represent the As in issues related to proposed new home stadium and relocation to Las Vegas, other capital structure issues, mixed-use development activities and executive employment agreements.
- Represented owners of the St. Louis Blues and the Savvis Center in various day-to-day business matters and the sale of the team and operating rights to the arena. Included negotiating and documenting the sale, the redemption of bonds used to finance the construction of the arena, and the NHL's approval of the transaction. Represented the team in new rights agreement for the broadcast of its games on Fox Sports Midwest.
- Represented the Chicago White Sox in naming rights deals with U.S. Cellular and Guaranteed Rate for the team's home stadium in Chicago and its radio broadcast agreements. Represented the White Sox, and worked closely with counsel for the Los Angeles Dodgers, in negotiating and drafting documents related to the development and use of the new two-team spring training facility built by the City of Glendale, Arizona. Represented the White Sox in early termination of its spring training deal with Pima County in order to start playing at the new Glendale facility in 2009. Represented the White Sox in financing provided to a minor league affiliate, participation in the MLB League-Wide Credit Facility and extension of concessions and novelties agreements. Represent the team in its major sponsorship deals and equity transactions.
- Represent the Chicago Bulls, Chicago Blackhawks and United Center in their major sponsorship deals, including extension of arena naming rights, telecommunications, beer and credit card sponsorship deals, and the Bulls' jersey patch sponsorship. Represented the Bulls in its radio broadcast agreements. Represented the Bulls in its participation in the NBA's League-Wide Credit Facility, new head coach's employment agreement, and acquisition of an expansion Gatorade League team (Windy City Bulls) and its entrance into a lease for its home venue.

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- Represented ownership that acquired the operating rights for the then-new MLS expansion team in Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Union. Negotiated and documented the expansion agreement with MLS and the purchaser's equity structure. Represented the Union and its stadium in their first founding sponsor agreements, naming rights agreements, jersey sponsorship, television broadcast agreement and youth development agreement. Represented the team and stadium in debt financing transaction with a cable network and entrance into stadium management, event booking, concessions and ticketing agreements with network affiliates. Represented the team in stadium issues, acquiring a USL team (Harrisburg City Islanders) and developing an MLS NEXT Pro team (Philadelphia Union II), and the new head coach's and other soccer and non-soccer operations personnel's employment agreements. Represent the team with respect to raising capital, bank debt financing and acquisition and development of a training facility, sports complex and mixed-use development.
- Represented the Chicago White Sox and Chicago Bulls, and worked closely with counsel for the Chicago Blackhawks and Chicago Cubs, in the formation of a regional cable sports network. The teams were owners of, and licensors of games to, the network, which began broadcasting in the fall of 2004. Also represented the White Sox and Bulls in their over-the-air television agreements with WGN. Represented the White Sox, Bulls and Blackhawks in their new broadcast rights agreements and regional sports network joint venture that commenced in fall of 2019.
- Represent the San Jose Earthquakes in stadium lease, equity transactions and debt financing.
- Represented a financial institution in providing debt financing for several NBA teams.
- Represented a financial institution in providing debt financing for an NHL arena.
- Represented a financial institution in providing debt financing for construction of the Columbus Crew's new MLS stadium (Lower.com Field).
- Represented noteholders in providing debt financing to several MLS teams.
- Represent minority investor in San Diego MLS expansion team.
- Represented purchaser of a minority interest in new MLS team in Austin (Austin FC).

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Recognitions

Recognized or listed in the following:

- *Chambers USA*
 - Sports Law, 2011–2024
- *Lawdragon*
 - "New Stars, New Worlds," 2006
- *Law360*
 - MVP – Sports, 2015
- *Sports Business Journal*
 - Power Players: Outside Counsel, 2021
- *Super Lawyers*
 - Illinois, 2008–2011, 2013–2020, 2025
- *The International Who's Who of Sports & Entertainment Lawyers*
 - 2013–2016
- *The Legal 500 United States*
 - Leading Individual, 2019
 - Recommended Attorney, 2014–2018, 2020–2024
- Lexology Index
 - Sports & Entertainment, 2018

News

- Katten Attorneys Selected for 2025 Illinois Super Lawyers, Rising Stars Lists (January 31, 2025)
- Katten Team Represents Investment Group in Acquisition of Tampa Bay Lightning Stake (November 1, 2024)
- Katten Highly Ranked in Legal 500 United States 2024 (June 12, 2024)
- Katten Receives High Marks in *Chambers USA* Guide 2024 (June 6, 2024)
- Katten Attorneys Named to 2024 Illinois Super Lawyers, Rising Stars Lists (January 25, 2024)
- Katten Represents Buyers Acquiring Controlling Ownership Interest in Dallas Mavericks (January 4, 2024)

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- Katten Represents Buyer Group in Majority Stake Purchase of Charlotte Hornets (September 6, 2023)
- Katten Boosts Rankings in *Chambers USA Guide 2023* (June 1, 2023)
- Katten Awarded Top Ranking in Structured Finance: Securitization in The Legal 500 United States 2022 (June 8, 2022)
- Katten Ranked Leading Law Firm by *Chambers USA 2022* (June 1, 2022)
- *Sports Business Journal* Names Katten Attorneys to 'Power Players' List (October 26, 2021)
- Katten Attorneys Help Drive \$3.2 Billion US Car Dealership Deal (October 6, 2021)
- Katten Receives High Marks in Derivatives, M&A and Securitization in The Legal 500 United States 2021 Guide (June 10, 2021)
- Katten Boosts Rankings in *Chambers USA 2021* (May 20, 2021)
- Katten Named Top-Tier Firm in Structured Finance and Securitization by The Legal 500 United States 2020 Guide (June 16, 2020)
- Katten Rated Top Law Firm by *Chambers USA 2020* (April 23, 2020)
- Katten Attorneys Selected to 2020 Illinois Super Lawyers, Rising Stars Lists (January 29, 2020)
- Katten Praised in The Legal 500 United States 2019 Guide (June 11, 2019)
- Katten Lauded Top Ranked Law Firm by *Chambers USA 2019* (April 25, 2019)
- Super Lawyers Lists Honor More Than 50 Katten Attorneys in Illinois (January 24, 2019)
- Katten Represents Ownership Group in Successful Bid for NHL Seattle Team (December 18, 2018)
- Katten Distinguished by *The Legal 500 United States* (June 14, 2018)
- Katten Rated as Leading Law Firm by *Chambers USA 2018* (May 3, 2018)
- Katten Attorneys Recognized in 2018 Illinois Super Lawyers, Rising Stars Lists (January 25, 2018)
- Katten Selected as the "Go-To" Firm for Sports Law in Chicago (July 27, 2017)
- Katten Distinguished by *The Legal 500 United States 2017* (May 31, 2017)

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- Katten Recognized as Leading Law Firm by *Chambers USA* 2017 (May 30, 2017)
- Katten Attorneys Recognized in 2017 Illinois *Super Lawyers*, Rising Stars Lists (January 13, 2017)
- Eighteen Katten Practices and 70 Attorneys Recognized by *The Legal 500 United States* 2016 (June 17, 2016)
- *Chambers USA* 2016 Distinguishes 22 Katten Practices and 50 Attorneys (May 27, 2016)
- Forty-Seven Katten Attorneys Recognized in 2016 Illinois *Super Lawyers* List (January 8, 2016)
- [Adam Klein Named Sports MVP by Law360](#) (November 24, 2015)
- Adam Klein Comments on Potential Anheuser-Miller Merger and Its Effect on Sports Advertising (September 24, 2015)
- Adam Klein Quoted in Law 360 Article on How to Avoid Problems With Arena Approvals (August 13, 2015)
- Nine Katten Practices and 42 Attorneys Distinguished by *The Legal 500 United States* 2015 (June 3, 2015)
- Katten Attains 22 Practice and 58 Attorney Rankings by *Chambers USA* 2015 (May 20, 2015)
- Adam Klein Featured in *The American Lawyer* Article on Sports Law (March 31, 2015)
- Partner Adam Klein Featured in *Chicago Lawyer* Article on Sports Law (February 6, 2015)
- Fifty-Three Katten Attorneys Recognized in 2015 Illinois *Super Lawyers* List (January 12, 2015)
- Eight Katten Practices and Forty-Two Attorneys Recognized by *The Legal 500 United States* 2014 (July 3, 2014)
- *Chambers USA* 2014 Distinguishes 24 Katten Practices and 54 Attorneys (May 23, 2014)
- Adam Klein, Head of the Sports and Sports Facilities Practice, Quoted in *Crain's Chicago Business* on Prospects of Digital Networks (February 24, 2014)
- Fifty-Four Katten Attorneys Recognized in 2014 Illinois *Super Lawyers* List (January 13, 2014)
- Adam Klein, Head of Sports and Sports Facilities Practice, Featured in *SportsBusiness Journal* (November 25, 2013)

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- Partner Adam Klein Featured in *Chicago Tribune* Business Profile (October 1, 2013)
- Katten Represents Sacramento Basketball Holdings in Purchase of NBA's Sacramento Kings (May 31, 2013)
- *Chambers USA* 2013 Recognizes 24 Katten Practices and 49 Attorneys (May 24, 2013)
- Sixty-Nine Katten Attorneys Included on 2013 Illinois *Super Lawyers* List (January 4, 2013)
- Partner Adam Klein Featured in *Chicago Tribune RedEye* Article (December 20, 2012)
- *Of Counsel* Interviews Adam Klein for Article on Sports Law (December 11, 2012)
- Partner Adam Klein Discusses Sports Law on WCIU (July 18, 2012)
- Partner Adam Klein Quoted in *CableFAX Daily* on Monetization of Sports Rights in a Multiplatform Environment (July 17, 2012)
- *Chambers USA* 2012 Distinguishes 19 Katten Practices and 45 Attorneys (June 7, 2012)
- Eighty-Six Katten Attorneys Named 2012 Illinois Super Lawyers (February 28, 2012)
- Former Katten Partner Joins the Front Office of the Pittsburgh Pirates (December 27, 2011)
- Katten Earns Recognition for 17 Practices and 44 Attorneys in 2011 *Chambers USA* Guide (June 10, 2011)
- Katten Advises Detroit Pistons in Sale to Billionaire Investor Tom Gores (April 11, 2011)
- Katten's Sports Law Practice Represents Time Warner Cable in Los Angeles Lakers Deal; Partner Adam Klein Quoted in *Daily Law Bulletin* (February 22, 2011)
- Katten Represents GSW Sports in Purchase of NBA's Golden State Warriors (November 15, 2010)
- Partner Adam Klein Featured in *Illinois Super Lawyers* on Sports Law (2009)
- Katten Represents New Ownership Group in Acquisition of Right to Operate Philadelphia MLS Expansion Team (March 3, 2008)
- Partner Adam Klein Featured in *Crain's Chicago Business* as Lawyer to Sports Industry (April 2, 2007)

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- Firm Attorneys Mentioned in *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin* for Role in Sale of St. Louis Blues (July 6, 2006)
- Katten Represents Sellers in Sale of National Hockey League's St. Louis Blues and Operating Rights to the Savvis Center (July 3, 2006)
- Katten Muchin Rosenman Represents Earle M. Jorgensen Company in \$984 Million Completed Acquisition by Reliance Steel (April 7, 2006)
- Firm Represents Earle M. Jorgensen Company in \$934 Million Proposed Acquisition by Reliance Steel & Aluminum Co. (January 23, 2006)

Presentations and Events

- Sports Team Investing for Family Offices and Other Investors FAQ – What Do I Need to Know? (February 20, 2025)
- Sports Business Summit 2023 (November 16, 2023) | *Panelist* | *Sports Finance*
- ICLE Annual Sports Law Seminar (May 5, 2015) | *Speaker* | *Sports Media Deals*
- 2014 FOX Fall Forum (October 29–30, 2014) | *Panelist* | *Sports Team Ownership – Balancing the Rewards With the Responsibilities*
- 34th Annual PMA Marketing Law Conference (November 12–14, 2012) | *Panelist* | *Sports Marketing—From Ambush to Marketing to League Negotiations*
- PLI Understanding the Securities Laws 2009 (November 16–17, 2009) | *Panelist* | *Resales of Securities*
- PLI Understanding the Securities Laws 2008 (November 17–18, 2008) | *Panelist* | *Resales of Securities*
- PLI Understanding the Securities Laws 2006 (November 2–3, 2006) | *Panelist* | *Resales of Securities*