

Daniel H. Render

Partner and Co-Chair, Sports and Sports Facilities

Sports and Sports Facilities

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As the Co-Chair of the Sports and Sports Facilities team, Daniel Render represents a wide range of clients in the professional sports teams and technology industries: including National Basketball Association, National Hockey League, National Football League, Major League Soccer, Major League Baseball, Women's National Basketball Association, National Women's Soccer League, United Soccer League and NBA G-League teams, arenas and stadiums, investors and sponsors.

Daniel counsels clients on a variety of transactional matters, including among them acquisitions and sales (including private equity investments in sports franchises), debt and equity financings, media rights agreements, sponsorship agreements (including naming rights agreements), venue ticketing agreements, retail merchandising agreements, concessions agreements, and coach and executive management employment agreements. Clients describe him as "thoughtful and thorough." (*Chambers USA* 2026*)* As a result, Daniel was named in the prestigious "Forty Under 40" list by *Sports Business Journal*, the premier sports business industry publication in the United States, and as a Rising Star by *Law360*, a top legal industry publication. Additionally, in a widely-read recent Katten report detailing how dealmakers are balancing hope for a steadying private equity market against lingering economic and policy uncertainty, Daniel was featured as a leading voice.

Industry knowledge and drive to achieve results

Daniel has represented clients across the professional sports industry, including:

- Teams, including the Chicago Bulls, Golden State Warriors, Sacramento Kings, Milwaukee Bucks, Brooklyn Nets, Los Angeles Clippers, Charlotte Hornets, Phoenix Suns, DC United, Seattle Kraken, New York Islanders, Chicago Fire, DC United, Chicago White Sox, Oakland A's, Baltimore Ravens, Cleveland Browns, Philadelphia Union, Real Salt Lake, Swansea AFC, Golden State Valkyries and Utah Royals.

Practices

- Corporate
- Independent Sponsors
- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Private Equity

Industries

- Entertainment and Media Transactions
- Entrepreneurial Ventures
- Sports and Sports Facilities

Education

- JD, The University of Chicago Law School, *with honors, Kirkland & Ellis Scholar*
- BA, Haverford College

Bar Admissions

- Illinois
- California

Professional & Community Involvement

- American Bar Association
- Sports Lawyers Association

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- Arenas and stadiums, including the United Center, Intuit Dome, Golden 1 Center, Fiserv Forum and the Chase Center.
- Investors in teams, including the Washington Commanders, Phoenix Suns, Atlanta Hawks, Tampa Bay Lightning, San Diego FC and Ipswich Town F.C.
- Governing bodies, including the US Soccer Federation.

Daniel previously worked in the marketing department for the Chicago White Sox.

Representative Experience

- Represented Greg and Dawn Williams in their $100 million investment in Spartan Ventures, an entity affiliated with Michigan State University (MSU), as part of their total $401 million commitment to MSU. Spartan Ventures will serve as the revenue, innovation and development arm of MSU Athletics, helping MSU to modernize and scale its approach to athletics program funding.
- Represented Marc Zahr and the Chaifetz Group as significant investors in the buyer group that acquired the Portland Trail Blazers. Negotiated and documented the investment, equity structure and NBA's approval of the transaction.
- Represented the Columbus Crew in the expansion of its 15-plus year partnership with ScottsMiracle-Gro Company for a multiyear stadium naming rights agreement through which the Crew's home stadium in downtown Columbus, Ohio was renamed ScottsMiracle-Gro Field.
- Represented the Chaifetz Group in the acquisition of a minority partnership interest in the San Francisco Giants. Negotiated and documented the acquisition, equity structure and MLB's approval of the transaction.
- Represented the Oakland Athletics in a $500 million minority equity raise in connection with the team's relocation to Las Vegas, Nevada and the financing of its new ballpark. Negotiated and documented the equity raise, investor arrangements and MLB's approval of the transaction.
- Represented a minority investor in the acquisition of the Baltimore Orioles by the ownership group led by David Rubenstein. Negotiated and documented the investment, equity structure and MLB's approval of the transaction.
- Represented a minority investor in the $1.5 billion acquisition of the Minnesota Timberwolves and Minnesota Lynx by the ownership

> ***"Daniel was friendly, knowledgeable and very experienced in the industry. " "Daniel has lots of transactional experience and is commercial and responsive when helping to negotiate deal documents."***

***Chambers USA* 2025**
(USA Nationwide, Sports Law) survey response

group led by Marc Lore and Alex Rodriguez. Negotiated and documented the investment, equity structure and NBA's approval of the transaction.

- Representing the Larry H. Miller Company (LHM) in acquiring a controlling interest in the operating rights to the Major League Soccer (MLS) club Real Salt Lake and the National Women's Soccer League's Utah Royals. The transaction includes the acquisition by LHM of a majority interest in the MLS Next Pro team Real Monarchs, the RSL Academy, and the operating rights to the America First Field, Zions Bank Stadium and the Zions Bank Training Center.
- Represented purchaser in acquiring the Tampa Bay Lightning. Negotiated and documented the acquisition, equity structure and NHL's approval of the transaction.
- Represented the owners of Swansea City AFC in the sale of the team, including negotiating and documenting the sale and EPL's approval of the transaction.
- Represented the Larry H. Miller Corporation in its partnership with America First Credit Union, which includes sponsorship of the Salt Lake Bees MLB Professional Development League club and the acquisition of naming rights to the Bees' new ballpark, now called "Daybreak Field," and the new entertainment district surrounding the ballpark, now called "America First Square."
- Represented Cleveland Browns in their naming rights for Huntington Bank Field.
- Represented Simon Sports in a significant minority investment in Ipswich Town F.C. Negotiated and documented the investment and EPL'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.
- Represented M&T Bank Stadium (home of the Baltimore Ravens) with respect to its ticketing agreement and sponsorship agreement with SeatGeek.
- Represented the Los Angeles Clippers and the team's new arena (the Intuit Dome), in sponsorship agreements (including naming rights agreement for the arena and jersey patch deal for the team), concessions agreement and ticketing agreement.
- Represented a significant minority investor in San Diego MLS expansion team.

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- Represented owners of the Utah Jazz in the sale of the team and operating rights to the Delta Center. Included negotiating and documenting the sale and NBA's approval of the transaction.
- Represented the United States Soccer Federation in its sponsorship agreement with AT&T.
- Represented minority owner joining the purchaser group that acquired the Washington Commanders.
- Represented the Barclays Center (home of the Brooklyn Nets) with respect to its ticketing agreements with SeatGeek and Ticketmaster.
- Represented purchaser in acquiring the new NHL team in Seattle (Seattle Kraken). Negotiated and documented various documents related to the acquisition and financing of the team, including the operating agreement for the ownership group, as well as the NHL's approval of the transactions. Represent the team and its AHL affiliate in Palm Springs (Coachella Valley Firebirds) in sponsorships and merchandise agreements.
- Represented the Phoenix Suns in naming rights agreement for Footprint Center.
- Represented the Milwaukee Bucks in a significant minority investment by Junior Bridgeman in the Bucks' ownership group. Negotiated and documented the investment and the NBA's approval of the transaction. Also represented the team in sponsorship agreements, and acquisition of Gatorade League (formerly known as NBA Development League) team (Wisconsin Herd) and the arena in its concessions agreements and lease agreements.
- Represented Monster Energy with respect to its sponsorship agreement with Tottenham Hotspur F.C.
- 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. Representing D.C. United in debt financing transactions.
- 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 the 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.

- Represented the Sacramento Kings and its affiliates in equity and debt financing transactions, sponsorship agreements, suite licenses, head coach and executive employment agreements. Represented the team in the acquisition of an expansion Gatorade League team (Reno Bighorns) and the Sacramento River Cats minor league baseball team.
- Represent the Golden State Warriors in equity and debt financing transactions.
- Represent the Chicago Bulls and United Center, and work closely with the Chicago Blackhawks, in their major sponsorship deals, including telecommunications, beer and credit card sponsorship deals, and the Bulls' jersey patch sponsorship. Represented the Bulls in its radio broadcast agreements. Represented the Bulls new coach and executive employment agreements and acquisition of an expansion Gatorade League team (Windy City Bulls) and its entrance into a lease for its home venue.
- Represented the Philadelphia Union and its stadium in sponsorship agreements (including various naming rights agreements for the team's home stadium and jersey sponsorships), television broadcast agreements and youth development agreements. Represented the team and stadium in debt financing transactions and 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 head coach 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 Miami Heat with respect to sponsorship agreements.

Recognitions

Recognized or listed in the following:

- *Best Lawyers in America*
  - Ones to Watch
    - Corporate Law, 2021–2026
    - Entertainment and Sports Law, 2026

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- *Chambers USA*
  - Sports Law, 2025-2026
- *Law360*
  - Rising Star, 2022
- *Sports Business Journal*
  - Forty Under 40, Class of 2023
  - Power Players: Outside Counsel, 2021
- *Super Lawyers Rising Stars*
  - Southern California, 2025
- *The Hollywood Reporter*
  - Top Sports Lawyers, 2026
  - Sports Power Lawyer, 2025
- *The Legal 500 United States*
  - Recommended Attorney, 2020–2026

News

- Daniel Render Discusses the Future of Private Investment in College Sports with *Sports Business Journal* (August 21, 2026)
- Katten Attorneys Named to *The Hollywood Reporter*'s List of Top Sports Lawyers (August 14, 2026)
- Katten Advises Apollo Sports Capital on $2.6 Billion Financing Agreement with Yankee Global Enterprises (August 11, 2026)
- Katten Advises Blue Owl HomeCourt Partners in Minority Interest Transaction with Cleveland Cavaliers (July 20, 2026)
- Katten Earns Top Rankings in the Legal 500 US 2026 Guide (June 10, 2026)
- Katten Climbs in *Chambers USA* 2026 Rankings (June 4, 2026)
- Katten Advises Marc Zahr and the Chaifetz Group in Acquisition of Portland Trail Blazers (March 31, 2026)
- Katten Team Guides Williams Family Investment in Spartan Media Ventures (December 15, 2025)
- Katten Counsels Columbus Crew in Stadium Naming Rights Deal (December 1, 2025)

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- Katten's Rising Leaders Named to 2026 *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch*® List (August 21, 2025)
- Katten Partners Adam Klein and Daniel Render Named "Sports Power Lawyers" (July 14, 2025)
- Daniel Render Quoted in *Citywealth* Article on Impact of Private Equity in Sports (June 13, 2025)
- Katten Receives High Marks in the Legal 500 US 2025 Guide (June 11, 2025)
- *Chambers USA* 2025 Ranks Katten as Leading Law Firm (June 5, 2025)
- Katten Represents Larry H. Miller Family Company in Acquisition of Real Salt Lake and Utah Royals (April 22, 2025)
- Katten Report Finds Dealmakers Balancing Hope for a Steadying Private Equity Market Against Lingering Economic and Policy Uncertainty (April 3, 2025)
- Katten Attorneys Selected for 2025 Southern California Super Lawyers, Rising Stars Lists (March 14, 2025)
- Daniel Render Featured in University of Chicago Law School Alumni Series *In the Sports Arena* (November 8, 2024)
- Katten Represents Cleveland Browns and Its Stadium in New Partnership With Huntington Bank (November 6, 2024)
- Katten Team Represents Investment Group in Acquisition of Tampa Bay Lightning Stake (November 1, 2024)
- Katten Attorneys Recognized as *Best Lawyers*® and *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch*® Award Recipients (August 15, 2024)
- Katten Highly Ranked in Legal 500 United States 2024 (June 12, 2024)
- Katten Represents Buyer Group in Majority Stake Purchase of Charlotte Hornets (September 6, 2023)
- Katten Attorneys Distinguished by *Best Lawyers*® (August 17, 2023)
- *Sports Business Journal* Profiles Daniel Render for 'Forty Under 40' Feature (June 26, 2023)
- Daniel Render Named to *Sports Business Journal*'s 'Forty Under 40' Class of 2023 (April 10, 2023)
- Katten Attorneys Recognized by *Best Lawyers*® (August 18, 2022)
- *Law360* Profiles 'Rising Star' Daniel Render (June 23, 2022)

- Katten Awarded Top Ranking in Structured Finance: Securitization in The Legal 500 United States 2022 (June 8, 2022)
- *Law360* Honors Daniel Render on the 2022 Rising Stars List (June 1, 2022)
- Katten Represents Lead Investor PSP Growth in OpenSpace's $102M Series D Financing (March 7, 2022)
- *Sports Business Journal* Names Katten Attorneys to 'Power Players' List (October 26, 2021)
- Katten Attorneys Listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*® (August 19, 2021)
- Katten Receives High Marks in Derivatives, M&A and Securitization in The Legal 500 United States 2021 Guide (June 10, 2021)
- *Law360* Celebrates Katten's New Partner Class (February 8, 2021)
- Katten Announces New Partner Class (October 30, 2020)
- Katten Represents Utopia Global in Sale to Prometheus Group (October 21, 2020)
- Katten Attorneys Distinguished as Top Legal Talent in the 2021 *Best Lawyers in America* and *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch* Lists (August 20, 2020)
- Katten Selected as the "Go-To" Firm for Sports Law in Chicago (July 27, 2017)

Publications

- From the Locked Medicine Cabinet to Locker Rooms: The Sports Playbook for Medication Compliance; Assessing the Risks and Realities (January 29, 2026)
- Katten Launches 2025 Middle-Market Private Equity Report (April 3, 2025)
- *Kattison Avenue* | Issue 12 (Spring 2024)
- *Corporate & Financial Weekly Digest* (Weekly) | *Author*

Presentations and Events

- Mergermarket Private Equity Forum US 2026 (October 20–21, 2026) | *Moderator* | *Game On: The Rise of Private Equity Sports Investing*
- ANA Advertising Law 1-Day Conference (April 23, 2026)

- University of Illinois College of Law | Sports and Law course (February 19, 2026) | *Guest Lecturer*
- Sports Team Investing for Family Offices and Other Investors FAQ – What Do I Need to Know? (February 20, 2025)
- SLA 2024 Annual Conference (May 9–11, 2024) | *Panelist* | *Latest Trends in Sports Property Investments: Private Investment Funds, Sovereign Wealth Funds and Other Institutional Investment Vehicles*
- ANA Advertising Law 1-Day Conference (March 20, 2024) | *Co-Presenter* | *Legal Trends in Sports Marketing*
- Annual Summer Associate Research Program Breakfast (June 9, 2015) | *Speaker*