



# THE DRAKE GROUP

Advancing Positive Legislative  
Change In College Athletics



## ADVISORY BOARD



**Jarrod Barnes**

**Jarrod Barnes, Managing Director, Minority Entrepreneurship.** A native of Columbus, Ohio, Jarrod Barnes currently is the Managing Director of the Minority Entrepreneurship Institute, a seed-stage impact investing fund that invests in minority founders across the Midwest and Southeast. Jarrod began his career working in collegiate and professional sports as a college football coach at the Ohio State University and as an NFL front-office employee with the Los Angeles Rams. After transitioning into Venture, Jarrod began as a Venture Fellow with Unshackled Ventures, the first and only pre-seed fund investing specifically in immigrant founders, and is currently completing his Doctorate Degree in Learning Design at the University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign. Jarrod is actively investing in high-potential startups within ed-tech, the future of work, media, and sports technology and continually sought out opportunities to create access to capital and education for underrepresented founders, investors, and ecosystem builders.



**Sally Dear-Healey**

**Sally Dear-Healey is a research sociologist** with an AA in Criminal Justice and a BA, MA, and PhD in Sociology. She is the Executive Director of the NYS Conference of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), Chair of the NYS AAUP Committee on Gender and Sexuality in the Academic Profession, District 8 Representative on the National AAUP Council, and an elected Chapter Delegate for the AAUP National At-Large Chapter. She received the 2010 Robert Maynard Hutchens Award from The Drake Group for her "courageous defense of academic integrity in collegiate sports." She is a trained mediator who conducts family, parenting, custody, visitation, and civil mediations for Accord A Center for Dispute Resolution, does conflict coaching, and is a Certified Divorce Mediator.



**Ashleigh Johnson**

**Ashleigh Johnson, is a 2-time Olympic gold medalist and 2-time world champion.** She is widely considered as the best water polo goalkeeper in the world. While she is proud of the many hours dedicated to pursuing athletic excellence, what truly motivates Ashleigh is her position as a role model. As a Black woman and an athlete, Ashleigh stands for equity and opportunity, actively rewriting the limiting narratives affecting Black people in aquatics by achieving superlative success in and out of the water. Ashleigh's guiding principle throughout her career has been to recognize opportunity and pursue it to the highest degree, both for herself and as an inspiration for others. She believes that "your difference is your strength" and strives to embody this perspective in sport and professionally, and has her sights set on the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, France. Today, Ashleigh remains one of the most dominant players in the world and she is dedicated to turning her personal lessons learned into something beneficial for everyone by sharing her story. She is a graduate of Princeton University.



**Richard Karcher**

**Richard T. Karcher, J.D., Professor in the Sport Management Program, Eastern Michigan University** teaches sport governance and regulation, sport ethics, NCAA compliance, international sport, and introduction to research in sport management. He was appointed as the university's NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative in February of 2022. Professor Karcher is also a lecturer in the Transformative Coaching and Leadership Program at UCLA where he teaches a graduate sport ethics course. His research and scholarship focuses on labor and ethical issues involving athletes and he is a co-author of a leading textbook on sport ethics for sport management professionals. He is frequently retained as a damages expert in cases involving athletes and has also provided expert testimony before Congress. Professor Karcher serves on the editorial board for the *Journal of Legal Aspects of Sport*. Prior to entering academia, he was a partner at Honigman LLP in Detroit where he practiced corporate law and represented and counseled athletes. He also played three seasons in the Atlanta Braves farm system.



**John Gerdy**

John R. Gerdy, Ph.D. is founder and president of Music For Everyone MusicForEveryone.net, a non-profit organization dedicated to cultivating the power of music as an educational and community building tool in Lancaster County, PA. He is also author of *The Successful College Athletic Program: The New Standard*, *Sports in School: The Future of an Institution*, *Sports: The All-American Addiction*, and *Air Ball: American Education's Failed Experiment with Elite Athletics*. Gerdy served as Associate Commissioner of the Southeastern Conference from 1989-1995 and as a Legislative Assistant at the NCAA from 1986-1989. He earned a Masters in Sports Administration and a Ph.D. in Higher Education from Ohio University. A 1979 graduate of Davidson College, he received All-American honors in basketball. Davidson retired his jersey in 1979 and inducted him into its Hall of Fame in 1994. He also played professionally in the Continental Basketball Association. In 2007, Gerdy was chosen as one of America's 100 Most Influential Sports Educators by the Institute of International Sport.



**Billy Hawkins**

**Billy Hawkins, Ph.D., Professor, University of Houston, Department of Health and Human Performance.** He is the author of *The New Plantation: Black Athletes, College Sports, and Predominantly White NCAA Institutions*; and co-author of *Sport, Race, Activism, and Social Change: The Impact of Dr. Harry Edwards' Scholarship and Service*, *The Athletic Experience at Historically Black Colleges and Universities: Past, Present, and Persistence*, and *Critical Race Theory: Black Athletic Sporting Experiences in the United States*. He has published in peer-reviewed journals, presented to learned societies in the area of sport studies (including sport management, sport history, and sport sociology), is a North American Society for the Sociology of Sport Research Fellow, and a Robert Maynard Hutchins Award recipient for his research on college athletics. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Iowa in Sport and Cultural Studies; a Master's of Science Degree in Human Performance from the University of Wisconsin at La Crosse, and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Webber International University.



**Donald Jackson**

**Donald Jackson, Principal and founder of The Sports Group,** a boutique sports law practice. Jackson has represented draft picks in the National Football League, National Basketball Association, Major League Baseball, and Canadian Football League. Further, he has represented several Olympians, FIFA World Cup participants, and a former 200-meter World Champion. He has counseled numerous professional athletes, scouts, and coaches in legal matters and has represented athletes in five major professional sports in legal matters, administrative actions, and disciplinary proceedings. His Amateur and Collegiate Practice has included appearances before the National Collegiate Athletic Association Committee on Infractions, Infractions Appeals Committee, Student-Athlete Reinstatement, and various other committees on behalf of coaches, student-athletes, and member institutions. Further, he has represented high school and amateur student-athletes from around the country in dozens of eligibility and disciplinary matters.



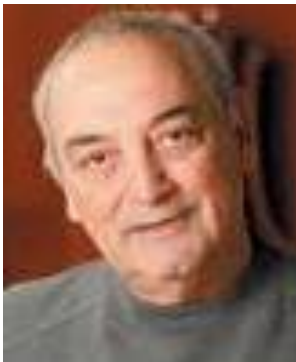
**Stanley Katz**

**Stanley Katz, Ph.D., Lecturer/Professor, School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University, ret..** Stanley Katz is President *Emeritus* of the American Council of Learned Societies, the national humanities organization in the United States. Mr. Katz graduated *magna cum laude* from Harvard University with a major in English History and Literature. He was trained in British and American history, receiving his Ph.D. from Harvard University where he also attended Law School. His recent research focuses upon recent developments in American philanthropy, the relationship of civil society and constitutionalism to democracy, and upon the relationship of the United States to the international human rights regime. He is the Editor in Chief of the recently published *Oxford International Encyclopedia of Legal History*, and the Editor *Emeritus* of the Oliver Wendell Holmes Devise *History of the United States Supreme Court*. He also writes about higher education policy and has published a blog for the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. He is the co-founder and editor of the history of philanthropy blog [www.histphil.org](http://www.histphil.org).



**Lewis Kurlantzick**

**Lewis S. Kurlantzick, Zephaniah Swift Professor of Law Emeritus and Oliver Ellsworth Research Professor, University of Connecticut.** A graduate of Harvard Law School, where he was a member of the board of editors of the *Harvard Law Review*, Professor Kurlantzick writes on copyright and sports law issues for both popular and legal journals and newspapers. His most recent books include *Legal Issues in Professional Basketball* and *Legal Issues in Professional Baseball* and *Copyright Duration: Duration, Term Extension, The European Union, and the Making of Copyright Policy*. He also has authored numerous articles and book chapters on a wide range of copyright and sports law topics, including copyright issues in the recording industry and the steroids problem in Major League baseball. When not teaching and writing, Professor Kurlantzick serves as an arbitrator for the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA). He also has served as a Special Master for the United States District Court in Connecticut.



**Sonny Vacarro**

**John Paul Vaccaro, former NIKE sports marketing executive best known for his tenure with Nike,** where he signed Micheael Jordan to his first sneaker contract. He is also a former top marketer at Adidas and Reebok. He founded the ABCD All America Camp which operated from 1984 to 2007, featuring the top high school basketball prospects in the country, and founded, with Pat DiCesare, the Dapper Dan Roundball Classic, which was the first national high school all-star game. He is often referred to as the “godfather of grassroots hoops” and is credited as the man behind the O’Bannon antitrust lawsuit against the NCAA which sought athletes’ rights to their names, images and likenesses.



**Mary Willingham**

**Mary Willingham, former Academic Advisor and Clinical Instructor in the School of Education, The Center for Student Success and Academic Counseling (CSSAC) at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.** Her research includes studies on the NCAA and university admission procedures with regards to athletes, their specific gaps in basic skill deficits, and the incidence of LD/ADHD. She is a co-owner of Paper Class Inc., a company dedicated to raising awareness about the need for NCAA reform. She received the 2013 Robert Maynard Hutchins Award in recognition of her courageous stand to defend academic integrity by exposing that UNC athletes were enrolled in more than 50 no-show classes so they could maintain their athletic eligibility. She has co-authored commentary in both *The Chronicle of Higher Education* and *Inside Higher Education*. She is the author of a book on the UNC-CH scandal, *Cheated: The UNC Scandal, The Education of Athletes, And The Future of Big-Time College Sports*. Willingham has a BS in Psychology from Loyola University, Chicago, and an MA in Liberal Studies from UNC-Greensboro and is a trained Reading Specialist.