

A ‘Thank You’ to Editor-in-Chief Emeritus Thomas Baker

Ryan Rodenberg

In 2015, Dr. Thomas Baker penned his first ‘Editor’s Note’ in the *Journal of Legal Aspects of Sport (JLAS)*. In relevant part, he wrote:

JLAS must maintain its rigor as the only peer-reviewed sport law journal in the academy, yet evolve to stay current in both content and format. The ways in which academic research is published and accessed are changing and *JLAS* must adapt, too ... I believe that *JLAS* is uniquely positioned to meet the call for both traditional and empirical legal research. Many within our community have training that allows them to conduct both traditional and empirical studies that tackle sport law problems ... *JLAS* ... is the best journal in the field of sport law. (Baker, 2015)

Dr. Baker’s vision has held firm for close to a decade. *JLAS* remains the preeminent journal in the sport law field. Such status has resulted for at least three reasons. First, *JLAS* has consistently attracted submissions from scholars across a variety of sport law sub-fields. Second, *JLAS* has uniquely kept its policy of publishing articles in both APA and Bluebook format, a wise choice that facilitates submissions from academicians with different backgrounds and professional training. Third, Dr. Baker’s expert oversight of *JLAS* during a challenging time in the academic publishing industry has allowed the journal to thrive.

I published my first academic article in *JLAS* in 2000 while a third-year law student. I published my most recent article in *JLAS* in 2022. Throughout that time, *JLAS* has remained a top potential peer-reviewed outlet for me—and countless others—when considering where to (try to) publish my research. The work of Dr. Baker and the prior *JLAS* editor-in-chief emeriti is the reason why *JLAS* continues as the leading “transdisciplinary outlet for sport law scholarship” (Baker, 2015).

Eight years and 15 issues of *JLAS* after his initial editor’s note, I write to say ‘thank you’ to Dr. Baker for his editorial stewardship. Indeed, the entire sport law community owes Dr. Baker a debt of gratitude for his work in advancing *JLAS*.



Beyond his role as editor-in-chief of *JLAS*, Dr. Baker is also the strongest advocate I know emphasizing sport law's important place in academia. From research to teaching to service, Dr. Baker is a complete sport law scholar and well-established public intellectual whose work has impact beyond the sport law silo.

It has been an honor serving on the *JLAS* article review board for the past eight years and I look forward to the opportunity of continued service on the *JLAS* board under the editorship of Dr. Natasha Brison.

References

Baker, T. A. (2015). Editor's note. *Journal of Legal Aspects of Sport*, 25(2), 73-74.

