



1997

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Recommended Citation

Dave A. Storm, *A Tribute to Dean Robert Garbarino*, 4 Jeffrey S. Moorad Sports L.J. 225 (1997).

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.law.villanova.edu/mslj/vol4/iss2/1>

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A TRIBUTE TO DEAN ROBERT GARBARINO

Dean Robert (“Bob”) Garbarino has served Villanova University School of Law with distinction for nearly half of its existence. Dean Garbarino’s efforts and contributions can be seen throughout Garey Hall. He helped create and mold Villanova Law’s curriculum, its resources and its students. He has also built a bridge to the alumni and strengthened the bond between the community and Villanova Law.

Dean Garbarino served as the founding Editor-in-Chief of the *Villanova Law Review* and he was a driving force behind the creation and sustenance of Villanova’s third publication, the *Villanova Sports & Entertainment Law Journal*.

The national sports and entertainment law bar owes an enormous debt to Dean Garbarino. Long before he became Villanova Law’s Associate Dean for Administration, Bob Garbarino was an accomplished lawyer who began to practice in this new specialty known as sports and entertainment law. Dean Garbarino likes to tell his students — and anyone who will listen — the story of his first contract negotiation in the dormitory hall of Saint Bonaventure University while he was still an undergraduate student.

After graduating first in the first class at Villanova Law, Bob Garbarino entered private practice, where he established an excellent reputation as a principled attorney and a determined negotiator. Bob Garbarino became one of the first practitioners of sports and entertainment law primarily through his representation of professional athletes in the Philadelphia area. However, he became such a respected sports practitioner that he represented both sides of the negotiating table throughout his career. Among his first clients were two professional basketball stars who became better known as outstanding NBA coaches and television commentators — Billy Cunningham and Chuck Daly.

Returning to Villanova Law in 1981 as an Associate Dean, Bob Garbarino brought his passion for sports and entertainment law with him. He counseled many Villanova law students on how to enter into the sports and entertainment law fields, including one such student, Jeff Moorad, who has since become a preeminent sports agent. His tireless efforts and unflagging support breathed life into Villanova Law School’s sports and entertainment law program.

Dean Garbarino was a key contributor to the birth of the Villanova Sports and Entertainment Law Society. The Society sponsors cutting edge seminars with both the brightest intellects and the biggest superstars speaking to packed auditoriums. Those seminar participants, largely corralled by Dean Garbarino, ran the gamut from the controversial Charles Barkley, to the combative Donald Fehr, to the academic Richard Schultz. Fueled by the immense student interest in this area, Dean Garbarino spearheaded attempts to add sports law and later entertainment to the curriculum. Certainly his efforts paid off as many Villanova lawyers have become first rate sports and entertainment lawyers.

In late 1991, a core group of students who sought to start an academic journal at Villanova Law, which would focus on sports and entertainment law, enlisted Dean Garbarino's aid. Dean Garbarino immediately encouraged this core group to proceed. He astutely advised them to enlist the aid of Professor Lanctot so that a disinterested member of the faculty would be seen as spearheading the move.

As this core group attempted to take the idea from concept to reality, Dean Garbarino worked tirelessly in advising them and securing support for the fledgling journal from the faculty. For the next year and a half, Dean Garbarino was always receptive to ideas and proposals. When we needed to see him, Dean Garbarino's door was always open.

During that first year, Dean Garbarino was unflagging in his support and enthusiasm, never once entertaining the thought that we abandon the project. Further, despite resistance, Dean Garbarino secured us the facilities and recognition necessary to pursue the creation of the Journal. Perhaps it was during those closed door faculty sessions that his skill as a negotiator prevailed over the doubts of skeptics.

Since that time, Dean Garbarino has been watching over the Journal like a proud father, nurturing its growth. On behalf of the founders of the *Villanova Sports & Entertainment Law Journal*, we thank Dean Robert Garbarino for his participation in our careers and our lives. We hope that in this tribute, everyone will see the greatness of the man.

*Dave A. Storm
Rhett Traband*