Shumaker

Robert A. Boland

PARTNER, SPORTS, ENTERTAINMENT & HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY SECTOR CO-CHAIR

@: rboland@shumaker.com

P: 419.321.1416

LinkedIn VCard



A nationally known sports attorney, Robert “Bob” Boland joined Shumaker in 2022, after a five-year tenure as Athletics Integrity Officer at Penn State. The Athletics Integrity Officer role, a first-of-its-kind role in the nation, was created as result of a consent decree between Penn State, the NCAA, and Big Ten, in the wake of the Sandusky scandal. Bob oversaw Penn State’s now $220 million dollar in annual revenue athletic department with direct reporting lines to the president and board of trustees in its recovery from what was the greatest collegiate athletic crisis in the history of higher education. In addition to safeguarding athletic integrity post Sandusky, Boland conducted significant investigations, led education, training and monitoring efforts to support compliance with federal and state laws as well as NCAA and Big Ten policies and overall best practice.

During his time at Penn State, Bob also helped shape institutional response to developing issues including: the legalization of sports wagering; the FBI investigation into college basketball; the Varsity Blues admissions scandal; Title IX and SafeSport issues; and the implementation of Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) policies.

With over 25 years of specialized experience, Bob’s practice centers on all aspects of collegiate and professional sports as well as related leisure and hospitality engagements.

Bob has balanced a career in academia along with practical engagement as an attorney and consultant. He also currently serves as a member of the faculty at Seton Hall University Law School where he helps anchor a concentration in Gaming, Hospitality, Entertainment and Sports Law, at this nationally ranked law school that mirrors his work at Shumaker.

A player agent for over a decade, Bob has negotiated more than 100 playing, coaching, and endorsement agreements across a variety of sports. His sports law insights are widely sought by media outlets, including ESPN, ABC, CNN, *Sports Illustrated*, MSNBC, T*he Associated Press*, *USA Today*, *The New York Times*, and *The Wall Street Journal.*

His academic and professional resume also includes:

- Leadership roles in nationally ranked sports management and sports law programs at Ohio University (2015-2017), where he headed its renowned Master of Sports Administration program which was ranked #1 in the world during each of his two years leading that program and as the founding sports faculty member and Academic Chair of the Preston Robert Tisch Center for Hospitality, Tourism, and Sports Management at New York University (2001-2015)
- Teaching appointments at Penn State Law and School of Labor and Employment Relations
- Numerous publications in peer-reviewed journals such as *Marquette Sports Law Review* and as co-author of T*he Evolution of NIL* in Collegiate Sports, chapter in **The Law of Professional and Amateur Sports** treatise, Uberstine, G. editor, Clark, Boardman, Callahan, publishers, 2025
- Advising a range of teams and players as the principal of Boland Sports Practice Group, LLC, including several franchise acquisition groups bidding for National Football League (NFL) teams
- Leading an NFL head coaching search for the Cleveland Browns and two college conference realignment reviews
- Serving as leader of a 2022 review of high performance (Olympic and World Cup) teams for Rugby Canada
- Winning a successful preliminary injunction against the NCAA in Clayton v. National Collegiate Athletic Association and Manhattan College in New York State Supreme Court (Bronx County) in 2024

SERVICE LINE

Benefits
Litigation & Disputes

INDUSTRY SECTOR

Sports Law
Sports, Entertainment & Hospitality

PRIMARY LOCATION

Toledo, OH

EDUCATION

J.D., Samford University, 1995

Communications, University of Tennessee, 1992

A.B., History, Columbia University

CERTIFICATIONS

Title IX Coordinator Certificate, National Association of College and University Attorneys

BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

Georgia

New York

U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York

U.S. District Court, District of Colorado

U.S. Court of Appeals, Tenth Circuit

PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY AFFILIATIONS

- Sports Lawyers Association
- Director, Culture in Sports, LLC
- Ethics Committee Member, USA Weightlifting, March 2021-January 2026

HONORS

- *Lawdragon* 500 Leading Global Entertainment, Sports & Media Lawyers, 2026
- *Law360* Distinguished Legal Writing Award, 2023

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