

SETON HALL | LAW

Sports Law Symposium: Sports in Time of Change
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Samantha Ekstrand, Esq.

Co-Founder

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Ms. Ekstrand co-founded her law firm, Ekstrand & Ekstrand, in 2002 with her husband in Durham, North Carolina. She focuses on sports law, which includes working with college coaches on contract negotiations, investigations, crisis management, and separation agreements, as well as advising various coaches associations' boards of directors, and drafting and lobbying for NCAA legislation. Her client base consists predominantly of coaches of women's sports including softball, lacrosse, field hockey, soccer, ice hockey, rowing, gymnastics, tennis, and basketball.

A native New Englander, Ms. Ekstrand earned her B.A. in History and Government *cum laude* from Dartmouth College, where she played on the women's lacrosse team. She ventured south to Duke University where she received both her J.D. and an M.A. in History. While at Duke, Samantha worked as a staff editor for the Duke Law Journal and served as a volunteer assistant coach for the Duke University Women's Lacrosse Team for seven years, during which time she had the honor of coaching her youngest sister, who captained the team to a Final Four berth and an ACC Championship. A teacher and a coach at heart, Ms. Ekstrand taught high school history in Connecticut and North Carolina and has coached a number of sports at a variety of levels. She resides in Durham with her husband and five children.

Ms. Ekstrand believes that playing on an athletic team can be a transformative life experience, which fuels her commitment to advocating for gender equity in sports.