ADVISIGN STUDENT-ATHLETES IN NEED OF LEGAL ASSISTANCE

When a student-athlete with legal problems or needs approaches an athletics department staff member (defined herein to include coaches and sport staff members) seeking a referral to a lawyer, law firm, or other legal resource, the staff member must keep in mind that it may be an NCAA violation if:

1. A lawyer or law firm provides preferential treatment, benefits, or services (e.g., a reduced rate) because of the student-athlete’s athletics reputation or skill or pay-back potential as a professional athlete or
2. The student-athlete receives any special arrangement by an institutional employee or representative of athletics interests.

Thus, staff members shall not provide or attempt to provide any incentive (e.g., access to the program, complimentary admissions, autographed memorabilia) to lawyers in order to secure representation or representation at a reduced cost for a student-athlete or a student-athlete’s family member(s).

Further, staff members shall not provide or attempt to provide any incentive to prosecutors, district attorneys, or judges in an attempt to obtain favorable legal results for a student-athlete or a student-athlete’s family member(s).

An athletics department staff member who is approached by a student-athlete in need of legal assistance should consider referring the student-athlete to the State Bar of Texas Lawyer Referral & Information Service (“LRIS”). LRIS is a free service that helps individuals with legal problems or needs find a lawyer or other resource that matches legal needs and financial means in the individual’s locale. The phone number for LRIS is 1-800-252-9690 and its website is http://www.texasbar.com/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Lawyer_Referral_Service_LRIS.