



John S. Wilson

Partner

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OVERVIEW

John Wilson is a partner whose practice focuses on technology transactions and sports law. John has deep experience drafting and negotiating commercial agreements for clients that range from startups to Fortune 500 corporations. These agreements include cloud computing services (including IaaS and SaaS), technology development, licensing arrangements, worldwide distribution, cooperative marketing, and endorsement deals. In addition to negotiating and drafting agreements, he regularly counsels clients on matters involving intellectual property, social media, and privacy issues.

John also represents clients in structuring, drafting, and negotiating sports and entertainment transactions including naming rights deals, sponsorship agreements, celebrity and athlete endorsements, media rights agreements, and stadium construction contracts. He has experience advising clients positioned on both the team and league, and the sponsor and brand side of deals. He also advises a group holding a minority interest in Seattle Sounders 2, a professional soccer club competing in the United Soccer League.

Prior to joining the Technology Transactions practice group, John gained experience as a member of the firm's Intellectual Property Litigation practice group. In that role he represented clients in numerous court appearances, negotiation of favorable settlements, and assisting with Section 337 investigations before the International Trade Commission in Washington D.C.

John's professional work extends to his commitment to pro bono services. He has argued before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals on behalf of a Mexican immigrant seeking asylum, withholding of removal, and protection under the Convention Against Torture to a citizen of Mexico based on his past military service and involvement in the arrest of several members of the Los Zetas drug cartel. He has also provided counsel to the Make-a-Wish Foundation of Alaska and Washington (on whose board he sits), and the Girl Scouts of Western Washington.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Prior to joining the firm, John was the lead law clerk for the United States Attorney's Office in Eugene, Oregon. He was closely involved with the prosecution of white collar, terrorism, and fraud cases. Prior to attending law school, John worked for several years as a quality assurance consultant and engineer for a variety of large manufacturing companies in the high tech and defense industries.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Recognized by *Chambers USA* for Sports Law in USA-Nationwide, 2024-2025
- Selected to Washington Rising Stars list, 2013-2018

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Member, Sports Lawyers Association
- Board of Directors, Make-A-Wish Alaska and Washington
- General Counsel, Sounders Community Trust
- Member, University of Oregon Dean's Advisory Counsel
- Board of Directors, Pacific Northwest Soccer Club

EDUCATION

- J.D., University of Oregon School of Law, 2008 (*Operations Editor, Oregon Law Review, University of Oregon Moot Court Board, Winner of the Intraschool National Appellate Advocacy Competition and Corporate Law Moot Court Competition*)
- B.A., George Fox University, 2003 (*varsity soccer team*)

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of Washington

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP POWERED BY HUB

- 16 March 2026, Talking Sports Law: A Conversation With Marissa Meli, Green Bay Packers Associate General Counsel
- 13 January 2026, Talking Sports Law: A Conversation With Guiselle Torres, Denver Summit FC General Counsel
- 2 July 2025, Talking Sports Law: A Conversation with Grecia Barboza, San Francisco 49ers Counsel
- 4 April 2025, Talking Sports Law: A Conversation with Former Executive Vice President and General Counsel of Seattle Mariners Fred Rivera
- 18 February 2025, Talking Sports Law: A Conversation with Bob Caldwell, VP and General Counsel of Real Salt Lake and Utah Royals
- 7 April 2023, A Conversation with Washington Commanders Chief Legal Officer Mali Friedman

- 21 July 2022, Talking Sports Law: A Conversation with Dan Hunt, President and CEO of FC Dallas and Toyota Stadium
- 19 - 20 July 2022, Global Sports Law Symposium
- 2 June 2022, Talking Sports Law: A Conversation with Orlando City SC and Orlando Pride General Counsel Caesar Lopez
- 15 March 2022, Talking Sports Law: An Interview with Jacksonville Jaguars General Counsel Justin Sievert
- 7 September 2021, Talking Sports Law: An Interview with the Legal Team from Canucks Sports and Entertainment
- 25 February 2021, Talking Sports Law: A Conversation with NCAA Chief Legal Officer Donald Remy
- 4 February 2021, Talking Sports Law: A Conversation with Bepro General Counsel Malte Vosteen
- 29 January 2021, Talking Sports Law: A Conversation with LAFC General Counsel Randy Haight
- 28 September 2020, Talking Sports Law: A Conversation with Tennessee Titans General Counsel Dan Werly
- 27 August 2020, Equity Crowdfunding: Offering Fans a True Stake in Their Favorite Teams
- 20 August 2020, Talking Sports Law: A Conversation with Seattle Seahawks Associate Counsel Alen Cisija
- 23 June 2020, COVID-19: Don't Forget the Fine Print: Liability Considerations as Fans Return to Live Sports after COVID-19
- 22 May 2020, COVID-19: Three Legal Issues for Leagues, Teams, and Stadium Operators as Live Sports Return
- 16 April 2020, COVID-19: A Survey of Sports Betting Activity during the Pandemic and Legal Considerations for Stakeholders
- 7 April 2020, COVID-19: Esports May Be the Best Play During the COVID-19 Pandemic
- 14 January 2020, Talking Sports Law: Interview with Sounders FC General Counsel Maya Mendoza-Exstrom
- 01 October 2019, The Times They Are a-Changin': California Passes Game Changing Law to Allow Collegiate Athletes to Be Paid
- 23 April 2019, Talking Sports Law: Interview with Michael Hammond, GC of Stack Sports
- 14 March 2019, Talking Sports Law: Interview with Boston Red Sox Counsel
- 6 February 2019, Talking Sports Law: Inside Interview with Guiselle Torres Associate General Counsel, Marketing and International Affairs at United States Olympic Committee
- 11 January 2019, Talking Sports Law: Top Recruit Joins Our Sports Law Roster
- 12 December 2018, An Introduction to Talking Sports Law

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- “MySpace, Your Space, or Our Space? New Frontiers in Electronic Evidence,” 86 Or. L. Rev. 1201, 2008.
- “Rapanos v. United States: Muddying Enforcement of the Clean Water Act,” *Western Environmental Law Update*, 2007.

NEWS & EVENTS

- 19 February 2026, K&L Gates Advises Bolt Ventures in Series A Round for Source Golf, Inc.
- 5 June 2025, K&L Gates Receives More Than 240 Firm, Individual Rankings in 2025 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 6 June 2024, K&L Gates Receives More Than 200 Firm, Individual Rankings in 2024 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 30 March 2021, Global Sports Law Symposium
- 11 December 2020, K&L Gates Advises Esports Organization Kansas City Pioneers on Premier Sponsorship Agreement and Other Legal Matters
- 9 June 2020, K&L Gates Advises Charlotte Phoenix Emerging Esports Organization on Capital Raise, Other Legal Matters
- 2 March 2018, K&L Gates Names 34 New Partners Across Global Platform

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Technology Transactions and Sourcing
- IP Litigation

INDUSTRIES

- Apparel and Footwear
- Consumer Goods and Services
- Media and Entertainment
- Sports