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2026

Sport Sector

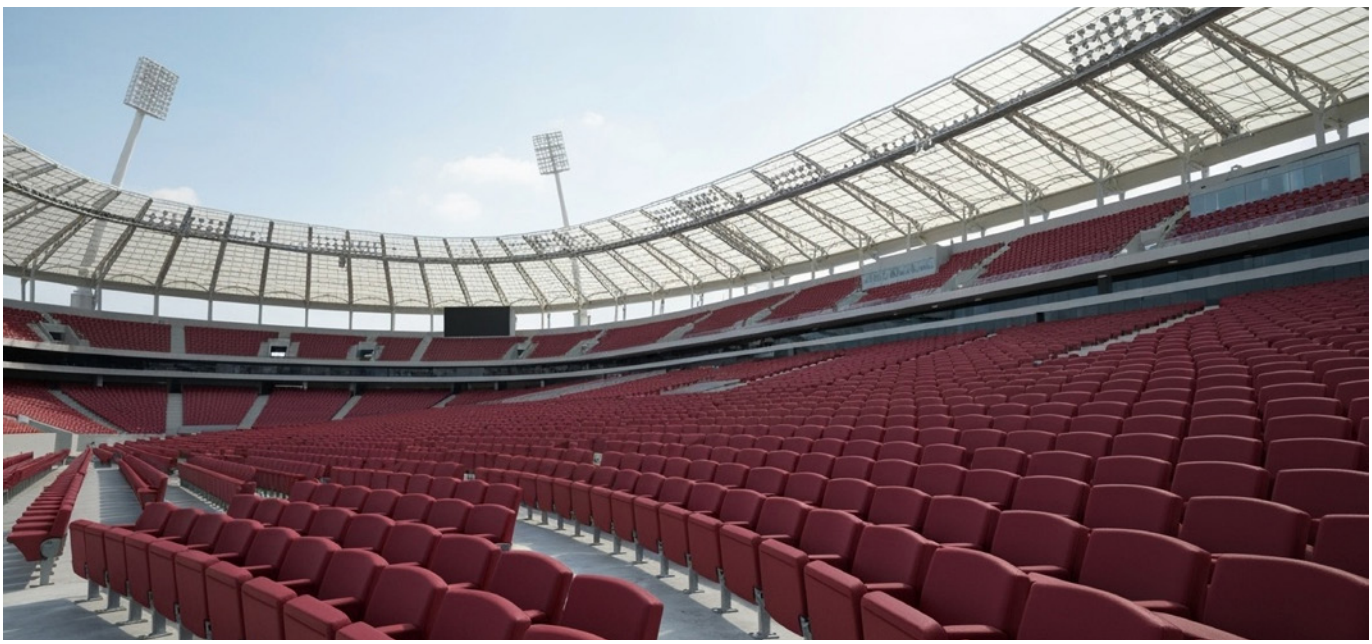
2026



PROFILED:

IRWIN A. KISHNER

Herrick, Feinstein LLP



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This article first appeared in 'POWER PLAYERS: Sport Sector 2026 – Distinguished Advisers' (November 2026).

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IRWIN A. KISHNER

Partner & Co-Chair of Corporate Department and Sports Law Group

Herrick, Feinstein LLP

New York, NY, US

T: +1 (212) 592 1435

E: ikishner@herrick.com

★ 2026
★ 2025

PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY

Irwin Kishner is a partner and co-chair of both the firm's corporate department and sports law group. He concentrates his practice in general corporate law with an emphasis on sophisticated transactional work. He is consistently recognised as a leader in sports law and has worked on some of the largest and most innovative deals. He has acted as lead counsel in all aspects of 15 major stadium transactions and represents professional sports franchises and sports-related entities on a range of transactions. He has been ranked in numerous industry publications and is often quoted in national and international media.

HERRICK



IRWIN A. KISHNER
Herrick, Feinstein LLP

Q&A WITH IRWIN A. KISHNER

Reflecting on your career, how have your goals and aspirations evolved over time? Have there been any unexpected achievements or shifts in direction?

◆ My goals and aspirations have remained steady throughout my career. I have always endeavoured to provide thoughtful, personal and excellent counsel to clients in the extraordinarily important situations on which we advise. I also aspire to be as effective as possible in all my engagements and to provide key advice for clients when they are working toward their business and personal goals. The scale and creativity of the deals have changed over time, but my approach and dedication have remained constant. What has been unexpected over the course of my career is the gratification I get from helping a client succeed. It has been especially rewarding to see the transactions on which I have worked tangibly affect the world and help our clients reach their objectives.

How do you mentor and inspire younger colleagues within your firm? Can you share a success story of someone you have guided?

◆ I try to bring in junior lawyers as often and early as possible to give them real-world experience and training. Early involvement also provides them with an invaluable way to understand the matter from all angles. I have our junior lawyers sit in on calls and in meetings to help them understand what it means to have a successful client relationship and to become an open ear for their client's needs. I try to share with younger colleagues the principles that have guided me, including always striving to do your best and to never forget the human aspect of what we do. At the heart of every transaction is a person, which is a concept that should always guide our strategy and recommendations. Some of our greatest successes are when the lawyers on



IRWIN A. KISHNER
Herrick, Feinstein LLP

our teams go on to become excellent in their own right and end up as firm clients.

Looking ahead, what are your predictions for this area of the market? What key developments are on the horizon?

There have been incredible innovations in the technology that we use to service our clients – advancements that have increased efficiency, streamlined communications and enabled us to further refine both our services and the final products that we deliver. While our artificial intelligence (AI)-enabled tools can enhance efficiency and productivity, they cannot replace the skills and judgment of a human. I predict that these tools will only get better and will continue to embed themselves more fully in what we do, which will further enhance the services that we provide to our clients. In my sports practice, the market is constantly evolving and changing. AI has transformed many aspects of sports, including fan interactions and predictive analytics. I expect that we will continue to see the rise in team valuations and investments in assets related to professional teams, including the surrounding real estate. In addition, the rise in popularity of women's sports will only continue to grow on an international scale. These trends will keep the market complex and reward creative, strategic dealmaking. ■

"I EXPECT THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO SEE THE RISE IN TEAM VALUATIONS AND INVESTMENTS IN ASSETS RELATED TO PROFESSIONAL TEAMS, INCLUDING THE SURROUNDING REAL ESTATE."



IRWIN A. KISHNER
Herrick, Feinstein LLP

REPRESENTATIVE ENGAGEMENTS

- Represented a leading wealth advisory firm with over $30bn in regulatory assets under management in the closing of a strategic investment.
- Represented Maryland Thoroughbred Racetrack Operating Authority in the transfer of ownership of Pimlico Race Course from The Stronach Group to the state of Maryland.
- Represented Milwaukee Bucks co-owner Marc Lasry in the sale of his 25 percent stake in the team to Cleveland Browns owners.
- Represented Legends Hospitality in entry into a share purchase agreement with private equity firm Sixth Street.
- Represented New York Racing Association, Inc. in a partnership agreement establishing Fox Sports as NYRA Bets' official wagering partner.
- Represented the New York Yankees in the issuance of $1.5bn in municipal tax-free and taxable bonds.
- Represented Yankee Global Enterprises in connection with Walt Disney Company's sale of its equity interest in the YES Network to newly formed investor group with total enterprise value over $3bn.

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