

Dennis Coleman, JD
Honorary Doctor of Business Administration

Widely recognized as a strategic problem solver, Dennis Coleman founded the nationwide sports, media, and entertainment practice at Ropes & Gray LLP, one of the world's preeminent law firms. He currently represents a wide variety of sports industry clients including the National Football League (NFL), the Boston Red Sox and the National Association of Basketball Coaches as well as numerous head football and basketball coaches across the country and top national broadcasters in contract, sponsorship, and endorsement matters.

In addition, Mr. Coleman works regularly with partners across Ropes & Gray to solve complex problems for sports industry clients, such as compliance and enforcement issues with government enforcement partners and intellectual property and licensing issues with IP partners.

Among his many accomplishments, Mr. Coleman represented Gillette in connection with the naming rights for Gillette Stadium, home of the New England Patriots; represented the NFL in a series of transactions positioning NFL On Location- its premium events and hospitality business; negotiated one of the first ever succession plan contracts in the NFL through the deal that took place when Jim Caldwell succeeded Tony Dungy as head coach of the Baltimore Colts; and currently serves as General Counsel to the National Association of Basketball Coaches, providing a wide range of advice on issues including licensing, sponsorships, patent, trademarks, real estate and contract negotiations.

He is a member of the American Bar Association and its Sports and Entertainment Industry Forum, the Massachusetts Bar Association, the Rhode Island Bar Association, and the Thurgood Marshall Law Society, among many other professional organizations. Mr. Coleman currently serves as a Trustee at Union College and on The Sports Lawyers Association Board of Directors.

He received his law degree from Georgetown University Law Center and his AB from Brown University.