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# Former US Atty To Rep. Ivy League In Athlete Scholarship Suit

By **Christine DeRosa**

Law360 (March 30, 2023, 4:16 PM EDT) -- A former U.S. attorney for Connecticut is one of two partners at Finn Dixon & Herling LLP who will represent eight Ivy League universities and the Ivy League Council of Presidents in a proposed federal class action brought by student athletes.

Attorneys Deirdre M. Daly, who also co-chairs the litigation practice group, and David R. Allen, both partners at Finn Dixon based in Stamford, Connecticut, will represent top-tier schools such as Brown University and Yale University in the suit by two basketball players.

The two players allege in their suit that the schools engaged in an illegal price-fixing scheme to raise the cost of education while suppressing the compensation student athletes receive for their services.

The plaintiffs, Tamenang Choh and Grace Kirk, who both attended Brown and played or play on the men's and women's basketball team, want to represent more than 10,000 Ivy League student athletes in the antitrust lawsuit, alleging that the schools agreed not to provide Division I athletes with athletic scholarships or other forms of payment.

The Ivy League Council of Presidents, the Ivy League's governing body, enforces the agreement, according to the complaint filed in the District of Connecticut.

The suit seeks damages and an injunction against the alleged anti-competitive scheme under the Sherman Act.

Both Daly and Allen are representing Brown University, The Trustees of Columbia University in the City of New York, Cornell University, The Trustees of Dartmouth College, Harvard University, The Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania, Princeton University, Yale University and The Ivy League Council of Presidents; Yale is the only school listed located in Connecticut.

Daly is a veteran attorney who began serving as first assistant U.S. attorney in Connecticut in 2010. She then became the acting U.S. attorney in May 2013 before she was appointed by former President Barack Obama to lead the office in 2014, a Department of Justice press release from the time said.

While serving as U.S. attorney, Daly prosecuted financial fraud, national security, corruption and child exploitation cases, according to her biography on Finn Dixon's website.

She served until 2017 and joined Finn Dixon in 2018 as a partner focused on internal investigations, compliance counseling, complex civil litigation and white collar criminal defense, a firm press release from 2018 said.

Daly also has previous private practice experience, working as a partner at Daly & Pavlis LLC from 2001 to 2010 and for Gage & Pavlis in New York from 1997 to 2001, the DOJ release said.

Daly, a Georgetown University Law Center graduate, is also a former assistant U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York, where she worked from 1985 to 1997.

Allen, who joined Finn Dixon as an associate in September 2019 and was promoted to partner in February 2023, is a member of the firm's litigation practice.

He handles federal criminal and regulatory investigations, complex civil matters and internal investigations, according to the law firm.

In his practice, Allen has represented clients in cases involving allegations of commodities fraud, embezzlement and wire fraud, among others.

Recently, Allen represented Edward Bases, one of two former Merrill Lynch traders convicted of a scheme to submit thousands of false orders on gold and silver futures that were sentenced to a year in prison on March 9.

Before the Allen joined Finn Dixon, he was an associate at Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLP in New York for six years. He also previously clerked for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York. He earned his law degree from Yeshiva University's Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law.

Neither Daly nor Allen immediately responded to requests for comment on Thursday.

--Additional reporting by Brian Steele and Celeste Bott. Editing by Rich Mills.

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