

KRISTEN J. THORSNESS, J.D., M.A., OLY

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ATHLETICS ADJUDICATION AND ADMINISTRATION

Court of Arbitration for Sport/Tribunal Arbitral du Sport 2022 - present

- Arbitrator on ad hoc court at 2024 summer Olympic Games
- General list arbitrator

United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee 2020 – present

- Arbitrator for disputes involving, e.g., athlete participation/selection, discipline and national governing body certification.
- Trials and Games Administrative Boards: appellate review of sanctions for athlete violation of conduct and other rules at Olympic/Paralympic Trials and Games

United States Rowing Association Board of Directors 2015 – 2017

- Secretary to the Board and Nominations Committee Chair
- Chair, 2016 High Performance Task Force
- Member of investigatory team for allegations of misconduct

United States Rowing Association Judge-Referee 2004 - present

- NCAA and US Rowing National Championships referee
- US National and Olympic Team Trials referee
- US Rowing Referee Committee (2019 – 2026)
 - Chair, Internal Operating Procedures Revision Task Force

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC, Rochester, NY 2022 - present

- Attorney in sports law, Title IX, higher education, labor and employment

Clapp, Peterson, Tiemessen, Thorsness, LLC: Anchorage, AK 2020 - 2022

- Attorney in products liability and general civil litigation

NY State Supreme Court, Ontario County: Canandaigua, NY 2017 – 2023

- Court Referee appointed by judges of the Supreme Court

County of Ontario, Canandaigua, NY 2006 – 2016

- Attorney in discrimination, personnel, statutory and regulatory compliance, public contracts and bidding, law enforcement, probation, corrections, solid waste management, elections, duties of public officers and economic development

- Ontario County Service Excellence Award, 2011.
- Ontario County Sheriff's Office Certificate of Appreciation, 2016.

NY State Supreme Court, 4th Appellate Division: Rochester, NY 2004 – 2006

- Appellate Attorney in appellate court; analyzed briefs and prepared disposition recommendations to justices of the court.

Law Offices of Nancy Hudgins: San Francisco, CA 2001 -- 2002

- Attorney in business law, product liability and medical malpractice

County of Alameda: Oakland, CA 1997 – 2001

- Attorney in employment, discrimination, constitutional law, government duties, personal injury, corrections and law enforcement, taxation and court operations
- Alameda County Counsel Association Award, 2001
- County Counsel's Association of California Litigation Award, 1998
- Represented County as *amicus* in California and U.S. Supreme Courts

Graham & James, LLP: San Francisco, CA 1989 -- 1997

- Attorney in labor and personnel, governmental permitting, statutory compliance, environmental law, insurance, commercial transactions, securities, construction, product liability and taxation
- National Institute of Trial Advocacy
- Member of firm hiring committee

ATHLETIC EXPERIENCE & AWARDS

United States National and Olympic Rowing Team 1982 - 1988

- Olympic Gold Medalist and World Champion 1984
- World Championship Silver Medalist 1982, 1983 and 1987

United States Rowing Association Awards

- 2008 Ernestine Bayer Award - "Woman of the Year"
- 2026 Jack Kelly Award for excellence and service to sport

United States Rowing Hall of Fame: inducted 1984

Alaska Sports Hall of Fame: inaugural class inductee 2007

University of Wisconsin Athletics Hall of Fame: inducted

United States National Rowing Championships

- National Champion 1979, 1985, 1986, 1987 and 1988
- Masters National Champion 2001 and 2005

University of Wisconsin Women's Rowing Team:

- National Champion 1979, National Runner-Up 1980 and 1982
- Big Ten Conference Female Rower of the Decade
- Big Ten Conference Female Athlete of the Decade, Runner-Up

EDUCATION

J.D., Boston University School of Law, 1989

- Paul J. Liacos Scholar Award
- American Jurisprudence Award: Admiralty and Maritime Law

M.A., Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University, 2002
Public Administration

- Certificate of Advanced Study in Conflict and Collaboration from the Program for the Advancement of Research on Conflict and Collaboration
- Dean's Scholarship Award

B.A., University of Wisconsin – Madison, 1985

Political Science Major, Women's Studies Certificate

REPRESENTATIVE PRESENTATIONS

"The Court of Arbitration for Sport: History and Decisions from the 2024 Olympic Games,"
Penn State School of Law Sports Law Symposium, 2025

"The Court for Sport: Alternative Dispute Resolution Before the Court of Arbitration for Sport," Bar Association of Erie County, 2024

"Navigating the Higher Education Regulatory Landscape," Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities in New York Annual Meeting, 2024

"Laws Around Transgender Athletes Continue to Evolve," Bond Business Podcast, 2024

Panelist, "Title IX in Athletics 50 Years Later: Still a Ways to Go," Bond, Schoeneck & King CLE, 2022

"The International Court of Arbitration for Sport," Alaska Bar Association, 2022

PBS, "Second Opinion: Cardiac Comeback" television program, 2017 and 2020.

State University of New York - Geneseo Leadership Development Program: "Lessons Learned on Perseverance", 2015

Television and print media appearances for Univ. of Rochester Medicine and Thompson Health, 2013-2014 and 2017

Keynote Speaker, NCAA National Rowing Championships Banquet, 2004

Panelist, "Thirty Years of Title IX" panel discussion, William Smith College, 2002

Motivational speaker to clubs, schools, organizations and athletic teams: 1984-present

REPRESENTATIVE RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Title IX's Three-Part Test for Athletic Participation Remains Enforceable in the Courts (At Least For Now...), January 2026

President Trump Signs Executive Order, "Keeping Men Out of Women's Sports," February 2025

Past and Present College Athletes Sue NCAA Over Transgender Participation Rules, March 2024

NCAA Division I DEI Self-Assessment and Attestation, July 2023

Hot Topics in Title IX Athletics: Recent Cases about Title IX Compliance in Athletics, April 2023

Hot Topics in Title IX Athletics: Transgender Athletes, April 2023

Hot Topics in Title IX Athletics: Does Having Separate Classifications for "Major" and "Minor" Sports Violate Title IX? April 2023

OCR Issues New Guidance on the Application of Title IX in Higher Education Athletics, March 2023