

Storm Kirschenbaum ('03)

As a lawyer, agent and friend, he represents athletes in multiple ways



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Providing a 24-7 concierge service or playing catch aren't part of a typical attorney's duties. But for Storm Kirschenbaum ('03), that's all in a day's work as a successful sports attorney and president of Metis Sports Management in downtown Birmingham, Michigan.

From his sleek, black and white office space, Kirschenbaum, in jeans and sneakers, admits with a grin that he can't believe how he applies his law degree. Sure, there are oodles of rules and regulations to understand with complex legal contracts. But caretaking for the baseball and football players who he is helping reach the big leagues is also a major part of his business.

“It's so much more than contract negotiations. Being an everyday attorney is thrown out the window,” says Kirschenbaum. “There's a lot of babysitting.”

He says that Metis is the source for everything athletes need off the field. From helping with broken cell phones to buying a house or car, they call on Kirschenbaum and his staff. “We are all encompassing. We call ourselves full service because that's exactly what we provide: 24-7 concierge service.”

Kirschenbaum learned early about sports law, representing ten minor league baseball players when he was just 21 years old, a first-year student at UDM Law. But his interest in the field started



Why UDM Law?

“The professors were fantastic, and it was a hands-on approach. The classes weren't too large, so it was a nice, personal setting. Being in the heart of Detroit was a lot of fun. As an athlete, we're not known for our book smarts, but they definitely pushed me to be a better student. I really feel like I excelled. It opened the door to a lot of opportunities for me. And, still, some of my best friends to this day are my law school friends. I have referred a ton of business to my UDM alumni.”

much earlier. His father, Dr. Stuart Kirschenbaum, was the State of Michigan Boxing Commissioner for 11 years, so he was exposed to the business side of athletics from a young age.

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Having followed his passion, Kirschenbaum says the most rewarding part of his job is watching the growth of his clients as they go through college and the minor leagues and eventually get a call up to the big leagues, knowing he had a helping hand in their success. He has watched clients go on to great careers, get married and have kids.

The relationships forged last well beyond the athletes' playing days. Kirschenbaum communicates with all of his clients after they retire from sports, acting as their family counsel and attorney for other projects. “These guys turn into my friends.”

For Kirschenbaum, having his hand in sports on a daily basis is just plain fun. And as an athlete who played both baseball and hockey, he digs the physical nature of the job.

“Yesterday I had a meeting with a prospective client for the baseball draft. I went to his house and gave a 2½ hour presentation at the kitchen table. He had a barn in the backyard with a batting cage in it, and I got to go throw with him for batting practice.” It's all in a typical day of work—and play—for Kirschenbaum.