Portfolio Media. Inc. | 230 Park Avenue, 7th Floor | New York, NY 10169 | www.law360.com
Phone: +1 646 783 7100 | Fax: +1 646 783 7161 | customerservice@law360.com

Rising Star: McDermott's Greg Berson

By **Elaine Briseño**

Law360 (August 5, 2026, 4:03 PM EDT) -- Greg Berson of McDermott Will & Schulte guided a Silicon Valley investor to become one of the first minority owners of the NFL's Buffalo Bills and helped the majority owner of the professional basketball and hockey teams in Washington, D.C., to sell stakes to a sovereign wealth fund for the first time, earning Berson a spot among the sports and betting practitioners under age 40 honored by Law360 as Rising Stars.

Biggest deal of his career:

Berson recalled helping Monumental Sports & Entertainment — majority owner of the NBA's Washington Wizards and the NHL's Washington Capitals — to secure minority investments from private equity firm Arctos Partners LP and sovereign wealth fund Qatar Investment Authority, and said that was one of his most important deals as an attorney.

The QIA deal was particularly significant because it was a novel transaction, Berson said, explaining that QIA is the only sovereign wealth so far that has been allowed to invest in both NBA and NHL teams. Monumental Sports and McDermott spent a lot of time working with the leagues to ensure a successful transaction amid their restrictive ownership framework, he said.

Both the NBA and NHL restrict franchise ownership from a single institutional investor to a 20% noncontrolling, minority stake.

Berson was involved in the Qatari fund's first investment in the teams in 2023 and helped them expand their ownership stake in December. He said details of the deal were not publicly disclosed.

"We had to figure out what would work for the NBA, the NHL, the owners, and the investors," he said. "We had to ensure the investor was comfortable with the restrictions on them so they could make sure the juice was worth the squeeze."

2026 LAW360 RISING STAR

Greg Berson
McDermott

Age: 33
Home base: Washington, D.C.
Position: Partner
Law school: Georgetown University Law Center
First job after law school: Associate at McDermott

What motivates him:

When Berson started his career at McDermott, he said, he had a lot of great mentors who gave him an opportunity to work in the sports industry.

"I want to pay it back to them," he said. "I want to make them proud and provide great services to their clients."

Berson said he's also inspired to be a mentor to up-and-coming associates at the firm — to help them reach their professional goals the same way he has.

Why he's a sports attorney:

Berson began his career working on standard mergers and acquisitions and private equity deals, but along the way, he met people in McDermott's private client group who were interested in investing in sports. He had an interest in sports, and the firm encouraged him to continue focusing on those types of deals for its clients.

"It snowballed, and now it's all that I do," he said.

His most recent interesting deals:

Berson advised Theresia Gouw, co-founder and managing partner of Acrew Capital, in her purchase of a Major League Volleyball franchise in Northern California that will debut in 2027. Buying a stake in an emerging league, he said, can be riskier than investing in a well-established league, but the lower price attracts some buyers.

"[Gouw] took those Silicon Valley chops and used them to make an investment in the sports industry," he said.

He was also on the team that guided Gouw in December 2024 as she became one of 10 limited minority partners of the NFL's Buffalo Bills in a funding round led by private equity firm Arctos Partners LLP. It was the first time in franchise history the team added minority owners. The Bills also became one of the first teams to sell a minority ownership to a private equity firm.

His proudest moment as an attorney:

Working with Monumental Sports, he said, has been a highlight of his career. He grew up in the D.C. area watching the Wizards and the Capitals play. He, like many other young people, fantasized about becoming a professional athlete, but said he knew that was probably not going to happen.

"I'm not competing on the actual field or court," he said. "But I feel like I'm playing a role in living out that quasi dream."

--As told to Elaine Briseño. Editing by Amy French.

Law360's Rising Stars are attorneys under 40 whose legal accomplishments belie their age. A team of Law360 editors selected the 2026 Rising Stars winners after reviewing more than 1,100 submissions. Attorneys had to be under 40 as of April 30, 2026, to be eligible for this year's award.