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**Arbitrator Rules Against National Football League Players Association in Case Involving Former College Football Player-Turned Criminal-Turned Lawyer**

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**MIAMI** (October 23, 2013) — An arbitrator has ruled against a National Football League Players Association (NFLPA) decision to deny the NFL agent application of a former college football player who was convicted of fraud.

Cleodis Floyd, 29, is a former Colorado State football player who was convicted of bank fraud while he was a student-athlete. Floyd has since graduated from college and law school and passed the Washington State Bar examination and is an attorney in Seattle. Yet, the NFLPA denied Floyd’s application to represent NFL players. Floyd appealed.

During the arbitrator’s hearing, Floyd was represented by attorney Darren Heitner, a partner at Wolfe Law Miami. “Mr. Floyd admitted and recognizes that he had a troubled past, largely as a circumstance of his upbringing in a couple of very rough neighborhoods,” Heitner said. “He committed illegal acts and was punished appropriately. But many years have passed, over which my client worked many jobs, performed a great amount of charitable work, went to law school and passed the Washington State Bar.”

Floyd was able to change his life, including working a full-time maintenance position at a hotel while in a halfway house; mentoring in an after-school program designed to increase minority participation in math and science; mentoring and coaching at the Boys and Girls Club; and volunteering as a speaker in inner-city high schools, where he told his story and mentored student athletes.

“The Cleodis Floyd of today is not the Cleodis Floyd of many years ago, and I am thankful that the arbitrator recognized that very important fact,” Heitner said. “Floyd will now be able to serve as a contract adviser to NFL athletes, and not only serve as a willing and able fiduciary, but also instruct his clients by using his past as an example to keep them far away from making the bad decisions he has had to deal with his entire life.”

Heitner said Floyd holds no grudge against the NFLPA for attempting to deny his application. “In fact, he thoroughly looks forward to working in concert with those at the NFLPA to do what is best for the players the union represents,” he said.

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Attorneys at Wolfe Law Miami ([www.wolfelawmiami](http://www.wolfelawmiami)) are leaders in business, sports, and entertainment law. Attorney **Richard C. Wolfe** is also a certified public accountant. He has been given the highest rating (AV) from Martindale-Hubbell. Wolfe is board-certified by the Florida Bar in the area of business litigation. In the area of film, Wolfe has represented film and TV producers in more than 35 feature films, including acquisition, business structure, production contracts, accounting and distribution, and the handling of two negative-pickup bank financing transactions. Theatrical releases have included *Midnight Crossing*, *The Unholy* and *It Had To Be You*. In the music industry, Wolfe has provided representation for more than 40 major and independent record companies, publishing companies, distribution companies, numerous artists and producers on transactions and litigation matters. He has negotiated in excess of 250 recording and publishing contracts on behalf of, or with many artists and record companies, including Plies, Mariah Carey, Will Smith, the Doobie Brothers, Marilyn Manson, Slash (Guns N' Roses), and many more. Mr. Wolfe has been or is a member of the following organizations: Florida Film and Recording Institute (past president), Florida Film Producers Association, Florida Screenwriters Association, Florida Motion Picture & Television Association, National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences and Entertainment Law Section of the Florida Bar (past chairman).

Attorney **Darren Heitner** is a partner at Wolfe Law Miami. He is licensed to practice on the state and federal level. He focuses on sports, entertainment, intellectual property and commercial litigation and transactional law. In addition, Heitner has a wealth of experience in the world of sports business as founder/CEO of Dynasty Dealings LLC, professor of sports agency management at Indiana University-Bloomington, co-founder of Collegiate Sports Advisors (CSA), contributor at Forbes Magazine, and founder/chief/editor of Sports Agent Blog, a leading Industry publication. He's a member of a number of organizations including the Sports Lawyers Association, the Florida Bar Entertainment, Arts and Sports Law Section, and the National Sports and Entertainment Law Society. He was recognized by SportsPro Media as "one of ten stars of the sports business industry under the age of 30," a "Rising Star" in the sports industry by Partnership Activation Inc., a "Power 30 Under 30" Miami honoree, named a "Top Sports Social Media Professional" by SportsNetworker.com, chosen as a Florida Legal Elite "Up and Comer" among attorneys in Florida under the age of 40, and he was named to Sports Launch Magazine's "30 Under 30." Heitner was recently honored as a "Rising Star" by the Daily Business Review.