

**FRANK W. RYAN, IV**  
**Class of 1994**

Frank Ryan brings the special perspectives of a competitor and a globalist to his law firm, his clients, and his law school. Frank's commitment and enthusiasm for the development and application of law is demonstrated by his exceptional success in practice and stewardship.

As an undergraduate in the Class of 1990 at Syracuse University, Frank was a four-year varsity letter winner in wrestling. He then moved across the hill to the College of Law, graduating *magna cum laude* as a member of the Order of the Coif and member of the Justinian Honorary Law Society. While in law school, he was a recipient of the Gerald Resnick Memorial Scholarship and participated in Moot Court and on trial teams.

After law school, Frank practiced with the firm of Nixon Peabody, eventually becoming head of its Litigation Department. The firm's managing partner recognized his capacity to "lead by example...through his strong sense of teamwork and ability to understand the client's goal on every case, every time."

In 2010, Frank became a partner in the New York office of DLA Piper, one of the world's largest law firms, where he is currently a member of the firm's Executive Committee and Global Board. He chairs the firm's U.S. Intellectual Property and Technology Practice, and is deputy chair of its Media, Sports and Entertainment Sector. A litigator and a transactional counselor as well, Frank provides legal and strategic advice to domestic and multinational clients who draw on his knowledge in intellectual property, media and sports, and complex commercial matters. He is especially known for his experience and skill in patent, trademark, trade secret, false advertising, digital media, and even in more traditional business litigation. His experience also includes defending several major law firms against malpractice claims.

As one of those big firm litigators who actually tries cases, Frank has established himself as a force in and out of the courtroom. With what he describes as the "rapid maturation" of the business of sports outside the U.S., it is no surprise to hear Frank speak of "international clients...grappling with issues surrounding digital delivery of content, how it's bought and sold, how it's valued, and how best to protect it." A search of his name on Lexis or Westlaw yields a long list of cases for a wide range of well-known clients dealing with such issues, including major entertainment networks, media- and sports-related entities, medical device companies and professional sports clubs, with names like ESPN (for which Frank has been longtime principal outside IP counsel), Disney, ABC, TomTom, Nike, the Pac-12 Athletic Conference, Al Jazeera, Medtronic, and ConMed.

Frank is a member of the International Trademark Association, American Bar Association, including its Sections of Litigation and Media and Communications, New York State Bar Association, and the Association of the Bar of the City of New York.

Among all of his legal endeavors, Frank commits himself to the service of the College of Law. He is a member of the Board of Advisors, a frequent speaker at the first-year student orientation programs, and of particular recent significance to the law school, as the moderator for a panel discussion on international sports law during last summer's 40th anniversary edition of our law school's LondonEx. Frank's dedication the College of Law is unwavering and he continues to give back and support its mission as he pioneers his legal enterprises.

*In recognition of his distinguished career and his leadership on behalf of the College of Law,  
Syracuse University College of Law is proud to honor  
**Frank W. Ryan, IV** with the Syracuse Law Honors Medal.*