June has officially arrived and the NCSLA Annual Conference is now just ten short days away! The theme this year is “Regulating Alcohol in Today’s Dynamic Marketplace,” and the Agenda will cover a number of diverse issues that demonstrate the dynamic marketplace of alcohol today, including social responsibility.

One such topic will be addressed on Tuesday, June 13th, when NCSLA Past Presidents Lynn Walding (2005-06) and Jerry Waters (2015-16) co-host the inaugural “broadcast” of the Lynn and Jerry Over the Noon Hour Show on the NCSLA Sports Radio Network (“You Do You, We Do Sports”) in a session, titled ALCOHOL, ATHLETES & ADDICTION – MANTLE TO MANZIEL. Joining them in the NCSLA broadcast studio will be Mary Wilfert, Associate Director for the Sport Science Institute (SSI) of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and, by remote access, former NFL Quarterback and the subject of a recent ESPN E60 profile, Ryan Leaf.

On-Air guest Ryan Leaf will share his heartfelt story as the #2 overall pick in the 1998 NFL Draft (second only to the Indianapolis Colts’ selection of Peyton Manning), his on-field promises left unfulfilled, as well as the shame and humiliation that followed when he walked away from the game four years later. Ryan will also divulge his addiction and subsequent fall from grace after being caught and convicted of burglary and possession of the proscription pain-killer, Vicodin, that led to jail-time in a Montana prison (2012-14). Finally, Ryan will tell how he has triumphantly been able to find recovery, redemption and purpose working with the Transcend Recovery Community (www.TranscendRecoveryCommunity.com) and his Focused Intensity Foundation (www.FocusIntensity.org). Ryan’s story will touch you and leave you filled with hope!

[Click here to watch a Leaf’s recent appearance on ESPN’s First Take. Or click here to see his appearance on The Ellen Show. And, if you subscribe to ESPN, I highly encourage you to watch ESPN’s E60 “Leaf” Episode, which first aired on Sunday, May 21st.]
Special In-Studio guest Mary Wilfert, having administered the NCAA drug-education and drug-testing programs since 1999, will share her work promoting policies and developing resources to help student-athletes make healthy life choices. Learn what the NCAA is doing to promote student-athlete wellness and substance abuse prevention and, when all else fails, when a student-athlete is deemed unfit to compete.

Together, the group will take a first-hand look at the unique characteristics of collegiate or professional athletes and whether those personality traits of competitiveness, thrill-seeking and perceived invincibility contribute to substance abuse problems. And, should they fall, whether such high-profile cases are harmful or helpful in drawing attention to the broader problem of substance abuse.

You won’t want to miss this session, or should I say, “broadcast!”

It’s not too late to make plans to come to Denver, Colorado from June 11-14, 2017 for this year’s annual meeting of the NCSLA! Visit www.ncsla.org today and register to attend. Not a current member of NCSLA? Joining is easy – just complete the online application form on the NCSLA website. You won’t want to miss a minute of these educational business sessions in addition to the valuable networking opportunities with colleagues and friends!

Keep up-to-date on conference logistics and state CLE approvals with the new NCSLA Conference App. To learn more about it and get instructions for downloading the App, just click on the link.

Did you forget to reserve a room at The Westin Denver Downtown? There may be some rooms still available so email Pam Frantz at pfrantz@ncsla.org for assistance.

NCSLA consistently offers the highest quality educational and informational programs at its Annual Conference. This year is no exception. Please join me in Denver this June for the conference highlight of the year. I hope to see you there!

Matthew Botting
NCSLA President