



AMERICAN
CONSTITUTION
SOCIETY FOR
LAW AND POLICY

Streaming Video Now Available of Panel Discussion on "Super Bowl XLI, The 'Rooney Rule' and Diversity in NFL Hiring Practices"

MEDIA ADVISORY

Friday, February 2, 2007

Contact: Ian Millhiser | 202-741-0687 | IMillhiser@ACSLaw.org

WHAT: Panel discussion with a senior NFL official, a legendary NFL player, a leading civil rights attorney and a respected sports journalist, on how through inclusive hiring practices "America's game is raising America's consciousness."

WHO:

- **Ray Anderson**, Senior Vice President of Football Operations, the National Football League; former Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer, The Atlanta Falcons
- **Cyrus Mehri**, Founding Partner, Mehri & Skalet, PLLC and Counsel for the Fritz Pollard Alliance
- **Len Shapiro**, Sports Columnist, Washington Post
- **Kellen Winslow, Sr.**, Director of Planning and New Event Business Development, Disney's Wide World of Sports Complex; former Executive Director, Fritz Pollard Alliance; former Tight End, San Diego Chargers (1979-87); and Member, Pro Football Hall of Fame
- Moderator, **N. Jeremi Duru**, Assistant Professor of Law, Temple University & winner, 2005 Entertainment and Sports Lawyer of the Year Award, National Bar Association

WHEN & WHERE: Currently [available online](#).

For the first time in NFL history, the winning coach of the Super Bowl will be African-American. While the history of African-American coaches in the NFL dates back to Frederick Douglass "Fritz" Pollard in 1921, the next African-American head coach of an NFL team was not hired until 1989, when Art Shell was hired by the Oakland Raiders. In 2002, the National Football League adopted the "Rooney Rule," which requires any team engaged in hiring a head coach to assemble a diverse candidate slate. At least in part as a result, there were a record seven black head coaches in the 2006 season, two of whom--Tony Dungy of the Indianapolis Colts and Lovie Smith of the Chicago Bears--are now the first African-American head coaches to lead their teams to the Super Bowl. Additionally, with the appointment of Jerry Reese as General Manager of the New York Giants, there are now a record six African Americans in General Manager or General

Manager equivalent positions. ACS's panel of experts addressed how those policies were adopted and implemented, the impact they have had on the league and the challenges that remain. For more information on this topic, please visit the [Fritz Pollard Alliance website](#).

To view streaming video of this panel, please visit <http://www.acslaw.org/node/4183>.

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The American Constitution Society for Law and Policy

email: imillhiser@acslaw.org
phone: (202) 393-6181, x.121
web: <http://www.ACSLaw.org>