

Press Coverage | September 3, 2026

Louisiana Judge Opens Door for LSU to Roster Ex-NFL Players; SEC Sues School, Kiffin to Stop It

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[Callan G. Stein](#)

Callan G. Stein, a partner in Troutman Pepper Locke's [White Collar Litigation + Investigations](#) Practice Group, was quoted in the September 3, 2026, *The Athletic* article, "[Louisiana Judge Opens Door for LSU to Roster Ex-NFL Players; SEC Sues School, Kiffin to Stop It.](#)"

"The SEC is asking the federal court to affirm its First Amendment rights without being overridden by state court orders that may favor individual athletes," said Cal Stein, a sports law attorney. "The state court can interpret the Louisiana Constitution, for example, but a federal court will have the jurisdiction to rule on the United States Constitution and thus the First Amendment issue."

...

"It's the same legal argument that the Big 12 raised against Texas Tech, and it is essentially that the conference has a First Amendment right to what's called expressive association," said Stein. "To define its own identity and define its core values."

Stein added, "(The SEC) thinks they can win the injunction, but there's also the deterrent effect that we saw firsthand with the Big 12 in the Texas Tech lawsuit."

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