



MLS Stadium Package

CLEVELAND PROFESSIONAL SOCCER

YOUR ITINERARY

Day	Time	Itinerary	Location
Monday	11:45 AM	MLS Team Arrival CLE	Cleveland Hopkins Airport
Monday	1:15 PM	Cleveland Professional Soccer meets MLSNP team in lobby of hotel; walk to Destination Cleveland	Hilton Hotel
Monday	1:30 PM	Meet with President & CEO of Destination Cleveland, David Gilbert	Destination Cleveland
Monday	3:30 PM	Meet with Cleveland State University	Cleveland State University
Monday	6:00 PM	Sushi Dinner	Gallagher Residence, Rocky River, Ohio
Tuesday	6:45 AM	(Optional) Meet at Hilton Hotel for morning run (Michael Murphy to lead)	Hilton Hotel
Tuesday	8:45 AM	MLSNP Team muster with bags in lobby and load on van	Music Box CLE
Tuesday	9:00 AM	Round table breakfast with Joe Cimperman, President of Global Cleveland; Barb Anthony, CoFounder NOWSA; and Elizabeth Emery, Board President NOWSA	Music Box Supper Club
Tuesday	10:30 AM	Site tours of potential stadium sites and current available options for playing MLSNP soccer	Various
Tuesday	1:30 PM	Meet with Baiju Shaw, President and CEO, Greater Cleveland Partnership	Greater Cleveland Partnership Offices
Tuesday	2:30 PM	City Hall Support: Mayor Justin Bibb and Chief Strategy Office, Bradford Davy	Cleveland City Hall; Red Room
Tuesday	3:30 PM	Travel to Cleveland Hopkins Airport for departure	Cleveland Hopkins Airport





CHARLES ALTCHek

President
MLS NEXT Pro & EVP
Major Soccer League

Charles Altchek was named President of MLS NEXT Pro in December 2021 following eight years in other executive roles within Major League Soccer. While leading the launch of the new league in March 2022, he oversees all aspects of the day-to-day business of MLS NEXT Pro, as well as future growth and expansion.

Altchek spent seven years working in the Office of the Commissioner, where he oversaw a variety of projects and initiatives, before moving into the role of Senior Vice President of League Growth and Operations in early 2021. In that capacity he supported MLS President and Deputy Commissioner Mark Abbott to drive the League's expansion strategy and efforts, including serving as the point of contact for all recent and prospective new ownership groups.

Altchek continues to manage all new MLS stadium projects from the development phase to stadium opening, ensuring that new venues meet all league standards and deliver against league and club objectives.

Altchek oversees the MLS operations department, which includes various facets of gameday operations for both MLS and Soccer United Marketing events, all league-related travel and the Soccer Operations Center. He also directs MLS' Crisis Management Team, which oversees gameday related issues that could impact an MLS match.

Prior to joining MLS in 2014, Altchek worked in Business Development for the New York Red Bulls and the New York Mets. Before beginning his sports business career, he worked at Goldman Sachs in the fixed income division.

A graduate of Harvard College, where he was the captain of the soccer team and was named Ivy League Player of the Year in back-to-back seasons, Altchek also earned his MBA at Columbia University.

Altchek resides in New Canaan, CT with his wife and four children.



ALI CURTIS

Senior Vice President
Competition & Operations
MLS NEXT Pro

Ali Curtis was named Senior Vice President of Competition & Operations for MLS NEXT Pro in December 2021. In his role he oversees multiple areas including competition, medical, security, operations and player relations.

Prior to joining MLS NEXT Pro, Curtis served as General Manager for Toronto FC from 2019 to 2021. During his time in Toronto, the club won the Eastern Conference Championship and advanced to MLS Cup in 2019. Additionally, in 2020, the club finished with the second-best record in the regular season and top signing, Alejandro Pozuelo, won the MLS MVP Award.

Curtis was previously the Sporting Director for New York Red Bulls. When he was hired in 2014, Curtis became the first African-American general manager in MLS history. Under his leadership, Red Bulls won the 2015 Supporters' Shield, achieved back-to-back first place finishes in the Eastern Conference and advanced to the 2017 quarterfinal stage of the CONCACAF Champions League. Curtis also oversaw the creation of USL side New York Red Bulls II, who won the 2016 USL Shield and USL Cup.

From 2007-2014, Curtis worked in Major League Soccer's League Office. He served most of his time in the League Office as the Senior Director of Player Relations and Competition Department. Prior to working in MLS's League Office, Curtis was an analyst at JP Morgan in Chicago and Los Angeles.

Curtis had a standout collegiate career at Duke University, where he was a three-time All-American and back-to-back national Player of the Year, winning the Hermann Trophy his junior season and the MAC Award as a senior. Curtis remains the all-time leading goal scorer (53) at Duke and will be inducted into their Athletics Hall of Fame in December 2022. After graduating, he was selected second in the 2001 MLS SuperDraft by Tampa Bay. He went on to play in MLS from 2001 to 2004 with three teams, Tampa Bay, D.C. United and Dallas.

Originally from Ann Arbor, Michigan, Curtis resides in New Jersey with his wife and two children.



BROOK GARDINER

SVP & General Counsel
MLS NEXT Pro

Brook Gardiner was named SVP and General Counsel for MLS NEXT Pro in April 2022. In his role, Gardiner is responsible for all legal matters, including league governance and expansion and commercial and player policies.

Gardiner's position with MLS NEXT Pro continues his legal career in sports and entertainment. He joined the new soccer league from NBCUniversal Media LLC, where he was Vice President, Labor Relations. In his role, Gardiner oversaw labor strategy for the NBC Sports Group, including Sunday Night Football, Olympics, Triple Crown, Premier League, NASCAR, and Golf, and the major market NBC and Telemundo stations.

Prior to NBCU, Gardiner spent 13 years as a lawyer with the National Football League, focused on labor relations. In his position with the NFL, he handled player-related arbitrations and provided labor law advice. He began his career as an associate at the Washington DC law firm Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer and Feld LLP.

Gardiner received his undergraduate degree from Princeton University and his law degree from NYU School of Law, where he won the Larry Fleisher Memorial Foundation Prize for extraordinary achievement in the area of sports and entertainment law.

Avid road cyclists, Gardiner and his wife reside in New York City.



CHRISTINE JIANG

Manager
League Growth & Operations
Major League Soccer

Christine Jiang was named Manager of League Growth & Operations for Major League Soccer in June 2021. In this role, Jiang focuses on new teams and new stadiums across both MLS and MLS NEXT Pro and provides support across departments through the new league launch.

Prior to MLS, Jiang worked as a Strategy Fellow at the Premier Lacrosse League, focusing on strategic projects related to fan engagement, sports betting, and player compensation. She was also previously a Strategy Extern for Harris Blitzer Sports & Entertainment and the Philadelphia 76ers where she worked on both new investments and internal strategy projects.

Before beginning her sports career, Jiang was a Senior Associate Consultant at Bain & Company in Boston, MA.

Jiang received her undergraduate degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where she was a member of the Women's Lacrosse team. She also earned her MBA from Harvard Business School.

Originally from Canton, Michigan, Jiang now resides in Brooklyn, New York.



JUSTIN BIBB

Mayor
City of Cleveland

Justin M. Bibb is the 58th Mayor of Cleveland working to improve public safety, invest in neighborhoods and modernize City Hall.

Mayor Bibb was born and raised on Cleveland’s southeast side in the Mt. Pleasant neighborhood. Over the past 15 years, Mayor Bibb has worked in government, business and the nonprofit sector as an executive and nonprofit leader. He started his career in public service working for President Obama when he was in the U.S. Senate and later at Cuyahoga County as a Special Assistant advising on education and economic development policies. He led the Global Cities Practice at global research firm Gallup, served as Vice President at KeyBank and most recently as Chief Strategy Officer at Urbanova, a startup focused on improving cities.

Mayor Bibb is a proud American University alumnus with an undergraduate degree in Urban Studies. He completed the General Course Program with an emphasis in Social Policy and Economics from the London School of Economics and is a graduate of Case Western Reserve University. He holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) and Doctor of Law (JD).

Mayor Bibb’s vision for Cleveland is to become a national model for city management, police reform, and neighborhood revitalization.



BRADFORD DAVY

Chief Strategy Officer
City of Cleveland

As the Chief Strategy Officer at The City of Cleveland Bradford Davy is responsible for seeing through the Mayor’s plans including addressing racial inequities and lead poisoning, and using data to improve the city services. He leads the Office of Quality Control and Performance Management—the city’s data repository which exists to improve government, make it more transparent, and innovate solution to problems. Davy lead Mayor Bibb’s transition team.

Prior to his current role, Davy worked at the Fund for our Economic Future on inclusive economic development practices across an 18-county region. He previously worked in the private sector as a Project Manager for Camcode Global LTD. He was once a graduate assistant for the Center for Community Solutions, an Ohio think-tank for health and social issues.

Davy has a master’s degree in urban studies from Cleveland State University and kicked off his political career when he was an undergrad at University of Toledo. There, he worked for U.S. Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur and revived the school’s chapter of college Democrats.



DAVID GILBERT

President & CEO
Destination Cleveland &
Greater Cleveland Sports
Commission

With a passion for all things Cleveland, David Gilbert joined Destination Cleveland in 2011, adding to his role as president and CEO of Greater Cleveland Sports Commission. From April 2015 through Dec. 2016, he led the Cleveland Host Committee for the 2016 Republican National Convention.

David's focus includes identifying new ways for the organization to contribute to the economic growth of the industry and region through its visitor attraction and destination management efforts. He also works collaboratively with civic and public partners to design innovative initiatives that advance the region. Under David's leadership, the city's narrative and destination product have improved significantly, contributing to nine consecutive years of visitor growth at a pace greater than the U.S. visitation growth rate.

Earlier in his career, David helped plan and market Cleveland's lakefront district as executive director of North Coast Harbor, Inc. He also worked as director of corporate development for the Cleveland Play House. During a first stint at Cleveland's visitor bureau, David developed two new, full-service visitor information centers and a nationally recognized welfare-to-work hospitality career training program.

David also dedicates his time to several organizations as a Board member, including the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, Huntington Convention Center of Cleveland and the U.S. Travel and Tourism Advisory Board of the Department of Commerce. Additionally, he serves as vice president of the board of the International Children's Games, based in Lausanne, Switzerland. During his career, he has been recognized as one of Cleveland's "30 Influencers of the Past 30 Years" by Crain's Cleveland Business, Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year and the 2016 SME Cleveland Business Executive of the Year Award. David holds a bachelor's degree in marketing from The Ohio State University and an MBA from Cleveland State University. When not busy enjoying Cleveland's Metroparks on his bike, David travels, trains for marathons and hangs out with his family.



SCOTT GARRETT

Vice President &
Director of Athletics
Cleveland State University

Garrett came to CSU in 2019 after nine years at Kansas State University, where he served as Executive Associate Athletics Director with responsibilities in fan experience, fundraising, business operations, sport supervision and more.

In his third year with CSU during 2021-22, department accomplishments under Garrett's leadership included:

- Hired or promoted five head coaches; Ryan Williams (women's golf), Jason Hudson (cross country/track & field), Christine Griffith (men's & women's fencing), Daniyal Robinson (men's basketball), PJ Farrell (e-sports).
- Published the CSU Athletics Strategic Plan (2021-2025).
- Launched media partnership with iHeart Media for men's basketball radio rights and other local coverage of Viking Athletics.
- Men's soccer made its first appearance in the Horizon League Championship game since 2012, led by Jannis Schmidt (HL Player of the Year), Bojan Kolevski (HL Offensive Player of the Year) and Thomas M'Barek (HL Defensive Player of the Year).
- The department combined for a 3.38 term GPA during the fall semester – its 30th straight semester posting a 3.0 GPA or higher – with 179 Dean's List and 36 President's List honorees.
- Re-launched the CSU Athletics Hall of Fame and inducted the 2022 class of Andrew Bailey (men's golf), Beth Greulich (volleyball), Clinton Ransey (men's basketball), Lee Reed (administrator), and Dara Toman (softball).
- Cleveland State combined for 38 All-League postseason honors on the year, in addition to eight major awards, while also picking up 33 total weekly league accolades.
- As of May 31, the department is closing in on the \$1 million mark in annual fundraising, a program record, behind growth in the Viking Fund (85%) and CSU Giving Day (21%)



JOSH GLESSING

Vice President, Strategy
Haslam Sports Group

Josh is the Vice President of Strategy for Haslam Sports Group (HSG) which is the parent company of the Cleveland Browns (NFL), Columbus Crew SC (MLS), and HSG Ventures. Prior to joining HSG in 2019, Josh was a Vice President with Goldman Sachs Global Sports Finance & Advisory group and a Senior Analyst for the PFM Group in Charlotte, NY.

Josh graduated from Indiana University where he studied Public Affairs.



BAIJU SHAH

President & CEO
Greater Cleveland Partnership

Baiju R. Shah is the President & CEO of Greater Cleveland Partnership, the region's leading economic development organization and with over 12,000 members, the largest metropolitan chamber of commerce in the nation. Guided by a board of corporate and entrepreneurial CEOs, the organization focuses on accelerating growth and prosperity through strategic initiatives, business services, real estate, and advocacy.

Prior to GCP, Shah served as the Senior Fellow for Innovation at The Cleveland Foundation, the world's first community foundation with assets of \$2.8 billion. His work centered on catalyzing economic growth initiatives including leading the Cleveland Innovation Project. Shah remains a member of the Impact Investing Board Committee which directs a \$150 million portfolio allocation of the foundation.

Previously, Shah was the CEO of BioMotiv and co-leader of The Harrington Project for Discovery & Development, a national drug development initiative. During his tenure, the company established strategic partnerships with Takeda, Biogen, Bristol-Myers Squibb, AstraZeneca, and Johnson & Johnson. Prior to that, he was CEO and co-founder of BioEnterprise, an accelerator and industry growth initiative formed with Cleveland Clinic, Case Western Reserve University, and University Hospitals of Cleveland.

Shah is a Director of Athersys (NASDAQ: ATHX) and is also a Senior Advisor to FasterCures, a center of the Milken Institute. He also serves as a Trustee of Destination Cleveland, Global Cleveland, TeamNEO, Ohio Excels, and Ohio Business Roundtable. Previously, Shah served as a Director of Invacare (NYSE: IVC) and an Advisory Board member of Citizens Financial Group (NYSE: CFG). He began his business career as a consultant with McKinsey & Company.

Shah has been named an Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year and recognized as one of Cleveland's most influential leaders. He received a JD from Harvard Law School and a BA from Yale University.



**DR. LAURA
BLOOMBERG**

President
Cleveland State University

Dr. Laura Bloomberg was appointed president of Cleveland State University (CSU) on April 26, 2022. She previously served as provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at CSU since September 2021. Before Cleveland State, Bloomberg served eight years as dean and [prior] associate dean of the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. In that capacity, Bloomberg led the global expansion of the school, established a national pathway program for college students underrepresented in public policymaking, launched an internationally focused Human Rights degree, and developed the Mandela Washington Fellowship program to support young leaders from countries across Africa. She successfully led the Humphrey School's \$20M Leading Together fundraising campaign.

Bloomberg is a three-time recipient of awards for graduate-level teaching and advising. Her academic research focuses on community-based leadership, program evaluation, creation of public value and P-20 educational policy. She is co-editor of the award-winning books "Public Value and Public Administration" and "Creating Public Value in Practice: Advancing the Common Good in a Multi-Sector, Shared-Power, No-One-Wholly-in-Charge World." Bloomberg has published dozens of peer-reviewed papers and made over 150 keynote and conference presentations about her work.

Bloomberg was the 2020-21 President of the International Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs and Administration (NASPAA), considered the global standard in public service education. In 2019 she was inducted as a lifetime fellow into the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA). Bloomberg holds a bachelor's degree in special education from St. Cloud State University, and master's degrees in psychometrics and educational psychology from Cornell University. She received her Ph.D. in educational policy and administration from the University of Minnesota.



DAVID JEWELL

Senior Vice President, Business
Affairs & Chief Financial Officer
Cleveland State University

David Jewell began in 2021 as is the Senior Vice President, Business Affairs and Chief Financial Officer for Cleveland State University. Previously, Jewell was Deputy Vice President for Finance at the University of Wyoming (UW), that state's flagship university, where he lead and managed the financial and administrative operations of the Financial Affairs Division and was responsible for managing and overseeing all budget and planning operations, large-scale capital projects, treasury functions, endowment and gift fund spending, university staffing and talent

At UW, he and his team transformed the university's treasury functions and grew the university's liquidity and number of days cash on hand, implemented a new cash investment policy that increased returns and restructured the university's existing debt to take advantage of historically low interest rates and realize substantial debt-service savings.

Prior to joining UW, Jewell was a private higher education consultant, where he worked with more than a dozen national and international universities on resource allocation, planning and management and performance improvement projects. Among his clients were Brown University, University of Alabama at Birmingham, University of Florida, Drexel University, George Mason University and Queen's University.

Raised in New Richmond, Ohio, Jewell holds a Master of Business Administration degree from Vanderbilt's Owen Graduate School of Management and a Bachelor's degree in human and organizational development from Vanderbilt's Peabody College of Education and Human Development. He and his wife Shelley have three children, daughters Madelynn and Frances and son Shep.



JOE CIMPERMAN

President
Global Cleveland

Prior to joining Global Cleveland as its top executive, Joe Cimperman served 18 years on Cleveland City Council, where he distinguished himself as a champion of the diverse peoples and cultures of Greater Cleveland.

Joe, an immigrant's son, grew up in a Slovenian-speaking household on East 74th Street in the St. Clair-Superior neighborhood of Cleveland. He graduated from St. Ignatius High School and John Carroll University, where he was elected president of the student body.

In 1997, he began the first of seven terms on Cleveland City Council. His diverse ward included the businesses and corporate offices of downtown as well as the cultures of Asiatown, Tremont, Ohio City, and the old neighborhood.

Joe, a German Marshall Fellow, assumed the leadership of Global Cleveland in April of 2016. He and his wife, Nora, live in Ohio City with their two young children.



BRIAN ZIMMERMAN

Chief Executive Officer
Cleveland Metroparks

Cleveland Metroparks is a separate political subdivision of the State of Ohio. The Park District consists of 18 reservations and Cleveland Metroparks Zoo and totals almost 24,000 acres of land hosting approximately 40 million visitors annually with a 90 million budget.

In March of 2010, Chief Executive Officer Zimmerman was sworn in by Cleveland Metroparks Board of Park Commissioners and was immediately challenged to craft a strategy for adding any and all available lakefront properties to the string of Park District existing properties. The intention to acquire these additional properties was to enable the district to further encircle the contiguous chain of lands already affectionately known to Clevelanders as "The Emerald Necklace." Zimmerman assembled a diverse and winning team and went about the tasks involved rallying local, state and federal officials to support Cleveland Metroparks candidacy for expanding their stewardship of land protection in Northeast Ohio. In route to this accomplishment, Zimmerman implemented Cleveland Metroparks Strategic 2020 plan, guided Metroparks to National Park and Recreation Accreditation Certification and led the charge to pass the 2013 Cleveland Metroparks Levy Campaign by an impressive 70% margin.

Zimmerman's drive and "can-do" energy is contagious as can be seen in the metamorphosis occurring at Cleveland's Lakefront and within the members of his staff as he has fostered a climate of achieving distinguished accomplishments. Awards won by Cleveland Metroparks since his arrival include honors given to the Finance, Human Resources, Legal, Marketing and Ranger and Engineering Departments. His redevelopment and vision of the Natural Resources Division has secured a future steeped in commitments to ecology, sustainability and stewardship for not only Metroparks lands but all that adjoin it, establishing a "lead by accomplishing" approach that Clevelanders anxiously embrace and other Park Districts use as a model.

**BARB ANTHONY,
MSSA, LISW-S**

Co-Founder
& Executive Director
Northeast Ohio Women's
Sports Alliance

Barb has 19 years of experience as a licensed social work professional with varied expertise in community health & mental health, sport social work, school social work, LSW supervision and executive leadership and more. She is adept at solution-focused problem solving with quick assessment skills and a passion for effective, impactful programs that help people.

Barb is also Co-founder and Executive Director of Northeast Ohio Women's Sports Alliance (NOWSA)

**ELIZABETH EMERY**

Board President
Northeast Ohio Women's
Sports Alliance
Podcast Host and Producer

Elizabeth Emery is an artist, writer, public speaker, and former professional athlete. Hear Her Sports is a female athlete podcast of long-form intimate profiles of female athletes breaking boundaries, speaking up and living with power & confidence. Hear Her Sports brings together all of these experiences and interests in the form of a podcast about women's sports. Through interviews, advocacy, and writing she celebrates individual female athletes who represent a range of backgrounds, perspectives and issues.



NOLAN GALLAGHER

Founder & CEO
Gravitas Ventures

Nolan Gallagher is CEO of Gravitas Ventures, which he founded in 2006. Under Nolan's leadership, Gravitas has become a global all rights theatrical distribution company that has released more than 3,000 films on Video on Demand (VOD). Through its relationships with over 200 audience-facing customers, Gravitas can distribute a film into over 100 million North American and over 1 billion worldwide homes. Nolan has been named a Hollywood New Leader by Variety and was chosen as part of the inaugural Indiewire Influencer class which recognized leaders in the independent film industry. Nolan has spoken on numerous industry panels including the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), SXSW Film Festival, and the Produced by Conference. Previously, Nolan worked in corporate marketing roles at industry leaders Comcast, Warner Bros., and General Cinema Theatres. Nolan was born in Cleveland, Ohio, and earned his undergraduate business degree from Boston College. He received his MBA from the Marshall school of Business at the University of Southern California whose Lloyd Grief Center of Entrepreneurial Studies named him its 2020 Alumni Entrepreneur of the Year. Nolan is a Board Member for the Greater Cleveland Sports Commission, part of the Cleveland Chapter of Young Presidents's Organization (YPO), and he and his wife, Catherine, are members of the Cleveland Clinic Children's Leadership Council. He can be followed on Twitter @NolanGravitas.



ADAM HILL, CPA

Partner, Real Estate Advisory
Cohen & Company

Adam assists clients across the country with business, attest and tax issues for the real estate, construction, hospitality and retail/restaurant industries. Primarily working with commercial and residential developers and property management companies whose projects range from \$5 million to \$500 million in scope, Adam assists with daily business issues as well as tax planning and structuring; deal and financing assistance; investment analysis; forecast and projections; cash flow and common area maintenance (CAM) analysis; general business planning; conservation easements; cost certifications; and historic, new markets, and energy tax credits and incentives. He also has expertise in the area of Qualified Opportunity Zones, Paycheck Protection Program and Main Street Lending Programs and has receivership experience.

- Cohen & Company Board Member; member of the firm's senior leadership team, co-leading the go-to-market efforts for real estate and construction; leads the firm's Real Estate Advisory Group
- Boys and Girls Clubs of Northeast Ohio (Board)
- Urban Land Institute – Cleveland (Advisory Council, Past Treasurer)
- International Council of Shopping Centers (Tax Policy Council)
- North Ridgeville Soccer League (Treasurer)
- North Ridgeville Home Owners Association (Treasurer)
- Frequent speaker on the topic of Qualified Opportunity Zones
- Ohio Society of CPAs
- American Institute of CPAs

Adam resides in North Ridgeville, Ohio, with his wife and three children. He enjoys spending time with his family and coaching kids' soccer.

**NATHAN KELLY**

President &
Managing Director
Cushman & Wakefield

As President and Managing Director of Cushman & Wakefield | CRESCO Real Estate, Nathan is responsible for the firm's overall leadership, direction in the market and ensuring the highest quality client service.

Nathan joined CRESCO after senior public-sector positions in economic development, municipal planning and performance improvement. A respected and connected community leader, Nathan established a reputation as an effective and resourceful strategist and consensus builder. He led more than \$1B in several catalytic public-private transactions and numerous successful business retention, expansion and attraction deals throughout Northeast Ohio.

Nathan is passionate about historic preservation and redevelopment. Through his work and community engagement, Nathan is a zealous promoter of Greater Cleveland as a premier location to live and work.

**MIKE MCLAUGHLIN**

Head Soccer Coach
Saint Ignatius High School

McLaughlin enters his 28th season as Head Soccer Coach at Saint Ignatius High School after taking over the program in 1995 he has led the program to new heights during his tenure.

With McLaughlin at the helm, the Wildcats have won an impressive 11 OHSAA Division I State Championships and 7 NSCAA National Championships. As head coach, McLaughlin has an overall record of 472-52-53, to go along with a combined 34 Coach of the Year awards from the NHSCA, NSCAA, OSSCA, GCSSCA, USA TODAY, and the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

McLaughlin serves as Theology Department Chair and Director of Sophomore Service at Saint Ignatius. McLaughlin, who joined the theology department in 1991, has also seen his boys have plenty of success in the classroom. The Wildcats have won the NSCAA National Team Academic Award 23 years in a row and the OHSAA Team Academic Award for 24 consecutive years.

McLaughlin was inducted into the Saint Ignatius Athletic Hall of Fame in 2003.



KEVIN PATRICK MURPHY

Partner
Walter Haverfield

Kevin is the administrative partner of Walter Haverfield and a partner in the firm's Business Services Group. His experience includes representing public and private companies on major real estate transactions including construction, development, financing, leasing, acquisitions, dispositions, exchanges, zoning, and entitlements. Kevin's practice also focuses on negotiating acquisitions, dispositions, buyouts, and joint ventures and advises on structuring transactions and corporate governance matters. In addition, Kevin regularly represents financial institutions and corporate borrowers in connection with commercial loan transactions.

Additionally, Kevin is knowledgeable in representing marijuana business owners, individuals looking to enter the legal cannabis industry, and clients looking to effect change in marijuana laws and regulations.

- Member, American Bar Association
- Member, Ohio State Bar Association
- Member, Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association
- Member, National Association of Industrial and Office Properties
- Public Affairs Chair, National Association of Industrial and Office Properties of Ohio
- Member, International Council of Shopping Centers
- Member, St. Ignatius High School Alumni Association



MICHAEL MURPHY

President
Gravitas Ventures

As President of Gravitas Ventures, Michael has been instrumental in growing the company's distribution footprint. He manages distribution of Gravitas' library of more than 3,000 titles of movies and TV to over 100 transactional, subscription, and ad-sponsored VOD operators on a worldwide basis. Michael also oversees the company's Free Ad-Supported Television (FAST) Channel strategy. He has spoken about film distribution at many industry panels including SXSW Film Festival, Palo Alto Film Festival, Variety's BRIC Summit, Variety's BritWeek Film and TV Summit, Hong Kong International Film and Television Marketing, and WestDoc Conference. Prior to joining Gravitas Ventures in 2007, Michael was Captain in the US Army where he served on active duty as a Judge Advocate. In 2005, he deployed with the 3rd Infantry Division in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom where he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal. Michael is a member of the Cleveland Chapter of Young Presidents' Organization (YPO), serves on the board of Boys Hope Girls Hope of Northeast Ohio, and is on the advisory council for the Northeast Ohio Women's Sports Alliance. He coaches track, basketball, and soccer at St. Dominic School in Cleveland, Ohio. Michael holds a JD from the University of Akron School of Law where he graduated cum laude, and a AB from the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA where he studied Classics and Political Science.



KRISTIN BERNERT

President of Business
Operations
Columbus Crew

Kristin Bernert serves as President of Business Operations for the Columbus Crew. Bernert is an Ohio native who, after 10 years in executive roles with Madison Square Garden Sports, co-founded and served as principal of KB2 Sports. Bernert joined the Black & Gold in January 2022 and directs all business endeavors for the Crew, including fan engagement and marketing; community partnerships and impact; game experience and facility management; ticket sales and services; corporate partnerships and overall revenue generation; and organizational administration.

Prior to establishing KB2 Sports, Bernert spent 10 years with Madison Square Garden Sports (MSGs), ultimately rising to Executive Vice President of Business Operations in 2018. In her role, she led business initiatives for all MSGs teams and affiliates, encompassing the New York Knicks, New York Rangers, Westchester Knicks, Hartford Wolf Pack, Knicks Gaming, and Counter Logic Gaming.

KB2 Sports offers advisory services related to business development and structure, long-term planning, talent acquisition, special projects and other functions for many entities across the sports industry, including the NWSL and Gotham FC, and multiple WNBA teams, as well as other companies focused on fan engagement and content creation.

Bernert initially joined MSGs in 2011 as the Vice President of Business Operations for the New York Liberty, where she also led player personnel and team development. Before joining MSGs, she held a number of significant leadership positions in professional basketball, including President of the WNBA's Los Angeles Sparks (2008-2010); Vice President of Team Marketing and Business Operations at the NBA (2005-2008); and Vice President of the WNBA's Detroit Shock (2002-2005).

Hailing from Stow, Ohio, Bernert graduated from Siena College with a degree in psychology and earned a master's in sports management from The Ohio State University. While at Siena, she appeared in 106 games with 59 starts at the point for the Saints basketball team from 1992-1996 and was enshrined in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference

(MAAC) Hall of Fame in 2015

CLEVELAND PROFESSIONAL SOCCER

Background

A small consortium of Clevelanders is working to achieve two simultaneous but dependent goals:

- Bring professional men's and women's soccer to Cleveland
- Build a world class multi-use stadium facility that fills a programming gap

Comprised of experts in finance, law, real estate, media, and soccer this group is entertaining the interests of three professional soccer leagues scrambling for market expansion:

- Major League Soccer NEXTPro (MLSNP) (men's)
- United Soccer League (USL) (men's and women's)
- National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) (women's)

As part of the application and due diligence process, MLSNP executives will be visiting Cleveland July 25 and 26 to tour the market, meet with key executives and visit potential sites. USL and NWSL executives will make a similar visits in the near term.

About MLS NEXT Pro

Established in June 2021 by Major League Soccer, MLS NEXT Pro is a new professional men's soccer league that began its inaugural season in March 2022 with 21 teams, 20 of which are reserve sides for MLS Teams, and another eight teams slated to join in 2023. Each team plays 24 regular-season games, which will be followed by an 8-team playoff tournament. The season runs from late March through early November. Team rosters can have up to 24 professional players (not including amateur academy players) with a maximum of seven international players. MLSNP is a platform for innovation and diversity. The league is testing new rules and format changes aimed at increasing the excitement of the game and ensuring that underrepresented groups play key leadership roles. Starting in 2023 MLSNP matches will be streamed through Apple TV globally through Major League Soccer's 10-year \$2.5 billion media rights deal.

Key Messages

MLSNP wants to grow the number of markets and fans. There are two categories of interest to MLS that Cleveland stakeholders can emphasize our own efforts and ask MLS about:

Club Development

1. Successful paths to developing a new market, fans, sponsors and investors, especially in a city with other established professional sports.
2. The MLS Platform for Innovation and Diversity priorities, notably MLS's approach to increasing the number of people from underrepresented groups, starting in technical staff positions.

Facility

1. Cleveland will support professional soccer. Cleveland is one of the last major markets without professional soccer. We know Cleveland is a great sports town. Cleveland fans show up and this is an opportunity for those existing fans as well as new fans especially from our multi-national immigrant audience that may not feel as connected to MLB, NFL, or NBA. Professional soccer is family-friendly and many like the reasonable 2 hours for a match.
2. Cleveland needs and will use a right-sized outdoor venue and indoor venue.
3. People will travel to Cleveland for soccer (and other sports) and use a right sized facility.

MLS Stadium Package

**READY TO TAKE
THE NEXT STEP?**

