

OFF DUTY

SNAPSHOT

How Pro Athlete Adam Sloustcher Became a Legal Sports Authority

The former San Jose Earthquakes player now leads the Dallas office of employment law firm Fisher Phillips.

story by **WILL MADDOX**



TODAY, ADAM SLOUSTCHER IS THE REGIONAL managing partner of the Dallas office of international labor and employment firm Fisher Phillips. He also founded the firm's sports division, which represents teams, leagues, universities, and other organizations. But unlike many of his colleagues, Sloustcher knows what it's like to play pro sports.

Professional soccer scouts discovered the San Francisco-area native at a young age. After playing

on youth national teams through his teen years, when he was 16, he left home and moved to Florida to join the U.S. Soccer Federation's residency program—a high-level training academy reserved for rising talent. While there, he played alongside future stars, including national team captain Michael Bradley. Sloustcher was recruited to play for UNC-Chapel Hill and later transferred to Loyola Marymount in Los Angeles, where he was team captain and a first-team all-conference defender.

The MLS draft came and went for Sloustcher, and he thought his dream of playing pro soccer was over. He took a job at a tech company but one day received a call from the San Jose Earthquakes. They wanted him to play in a reserve team game. After his showing, the team offered him a contract.

Sloustcher achieved his dream, but at the end of his rookie season, a two-minute meeting with the coaching staff ended his pro soccer career. "I was basically in tears walking out," he says. "It was all business and a good lesson about professional sports."

Although it was a difficult moment, Sloustcher moved forward, took a job with a law firm, and later attended law school in San Francisco. He joined Fisher Phillips in 2016 and became a partner five years later, launching the firm's sports industry group. He jokes about his "cup of coffee" with the Earthquakes, but the experience shaped his career and life moving forward. "You're going to have ups and downs as a litigator, and you have to bounce back," he says. "You may not win every motion you file or every case you take to trial, but you have to move on to the next play." **D**

HOMETOWN HERO
Adam Sloustcher played for the San Jose Earthquakes after experience with youth national teams.

SPORTS LAW

Finding His Passion

Adam Sloustcher formed Fisher Phillips' sports division to meld his career with his passion for sports.

Fisher Phillips employs 35 former college or pro athletes who work for clients ranging from teams and leagues to colleges, sports TV channels, and stadiums. The sports team is chaired by Adam Sloustcher, along with California-based Todd Scherwin, who played baseball at UC, San Diego.

The firm helps clients abide by regulations, avoid and manage controversies, battle governmental agencies, and deal with NIL cases. "For years, I would read about these lawsuits filed against various professional teams, universities, or leagues, and it would fire me up," Sloustcher says. "Why aren't we the ones being hired by these organizations to be their go-to sports employment lawyer?"

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