Peg Brenden, JD, has been a Compensation Judge with the Minnesota State Office of Administrative Hearings for the past 25 years. Judge Brenden is uniquely qualified to understand and appreciate Title IX. In 1972, while still a high school senior, she became a pioneering plaintiff in a groundbreaking federal lawsuit, Brenden v. Independent School District 742—one of the first Title IX cases nationwide to deal with the issue of equal rights for girls in high school sports. As a result of that suit, Brenden earned the right to play on her high school (boys’) tennis team and played intercollegiate tennis (on the women’s team) at Luther College. Brenden’s story and courage reflects how one person can truly create change.

About the Lecture: As we celebrate the 40th anniversary of Title IX, the landscape of sports for girls and women has undergone dramatic and transformative change. One of the most successful pieces of civil rights legislation in this country, Title IX has allowed record numbers of females to engage—and succeed—in sport participation at all levels of competition. In spite of such gains, numerous myths and stereotypes about Title IX remain and challenges to the federal law threaten to reverse progress. To honor the 40th anniversary of Title IX, the Tucker Center has assembled a trio of champions who have changed and challenged the landscape of sport for females and who will discuss the impact of this groundbreaking legislation from their respective positions of expertise and experience. The panel will be moderated by Tucker Center Affiliated Scholar Rayla Allison, JD, a national expert on Title IX case law and founder of the Sports Business Institute in the School of Kinesiology at the U of M.

About the Panelists:

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Judith M. Sweet, MS, MBA, is a nationally known expert on Title IX. Of her many accomplishments, she served terms as Secretary-Treasurer (’89) and President (’91) of the NCAA, the first woman to serve in each of those positions. She is also a former NCAA Senior Vice President (2001-’06) and Athletics Director Emerita (University of CA, San Diego, 1975-’99). She was one of the first women in the nation selected to direct a combined men’s and women’s athletics program. In 2011 Sweet received the NACWAA Lifetime Achievement Award and was recently selected by the Sports Business Journal as a member of the 2012 class of The Champions: Pioneers & Innovators in Sports Business—an award which reflects the numerous ways she’s changed women’s sport.

Deborah Brake, J.D., has been a Professor of Law and Distinguished Faculty Scholar at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law since 1998 and was formerly senior counsel at the National Women’s Law Center. She is a nationally recognized expert and author on Title IX and gender equality in sports, and on gender discrimination more broadly. Her book, Getting in the Game: Title IX and the Women’s Sports Revolution, was published by New York University Press in 2010 and her law review articles have appeared in numerous prestigious journals. Brake’s legal scholarship explores the theoretical underpinnings of equality law, including the law’s treatment of punitive responses to equality claims under Title IX.

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