About the Panel: The passage of Title IX marked an unprecedented moment in women’s sports. Young girls’ and women’s opportunities increased dramatically, and for the first time in our nation’s history, we have a critical mass of females participating at all levels, from recreational leagues to college, Olympic and professional sports. In spite of such progress, Title IX continues to be threatened, and the gains that have been made in the courts and in long-standing federal policies are in danger of being reversed. This panel will examine current and emerging threats, highlight the numerous myths surrounding Title IX, and offer strategies we can all take to protect Title IX.

About the Panelists:

Rayla Allison: A nationally recognized legal expert, Allison is a graduate of William Mitchell College of Law who represents numerous clients in the area of Title IX. She also serves as Coordinator of the Sport Management Program at Minnesota State University, Mankato. The former Executive Director of the Women’s Professional Fastpitch Softball League, Allison is a member the Women’s Softball Hall of Fame.

Mary Jo Kane: An internationally known scholar on the social and political implications of Title IX, Professor Kane received the Scholar of the Year Award from the Women’s Sports Foundation for her groundbreaking research on women’s sports. Kane was recently inducted into the American Academy of Kinesiology, the highest honor in her field. Kane is currently serving as the Director of the School of Kinesiology at the U of M.

Deborah Larkin: One of the nation’s leading advocates for Title IX, Larkin has served as the Executive Director of the Women’s Sports Foundation and was a board member of the President’s Council on Physical Fitness & Sports in the early 1990s. Larkin currently serves on the board of the National Women’s Law Center in Washington, D.C., an organization at the forefront of protecting Title IX from legal challenges.

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