



# Amicus Brief Filed by ELA in the Pending NLRB Matter Between Northwestern University and College Athletes Players Association

July 9, 2014

Gray Plant Mooty attorney Mark Mathison recently contributed to an amicus brief filed by the Employment Law Alliance's Higher Education Council (HEC-ELA) with the National Labor Relations Board. The brief, supporting Northwestern University in its dispute with the College Athletes Players Association, argues that under the test established in the NLRB's 2004 *Brown University* decision, Northwestern's football players are primarily students, and not employees, of the institution. Therefore, they are not able to collectively bargain over the terms and conditions of their education.

The HEC-ELA brief was written in collaboration between Gray Plant Mooty and three other member firms: Bond Schoeneck & King, PLLC; Hirschfeld Kraemer LLP; and Sturgill, Turner, Barker, & Moloney, PLLC. The ELA is the world's largest network of labor and employment lawyers, with more than 3000 attorneys providing national and worldwide support and advice on such issues as labor and employment, intellectual property, regulatory compliance, and immigration.

The full brief is available [here](#).