

Leadership, coaching and accepting adversity

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Marc Trestman, former head coach of the Chicago Bears, tells how his law school education shaped his career in football. (Photo by Paula Burch-Celentano)

Marc Trestman is best known for his career coaching professional football, yet few knew that he was once an aspiring lawyer. On Thursday, the Tulane Sports Law Program presented a talk by Trestman at the Tulane University Law School about the impact of his law school education on his career.

Trestman's career in professional football spans three decades and includes leading the Canadian Football League's Montreal Alouettes and the National Football League's Chicago Bears. He is also the author of *Perseverance: Life Lessons of Leadership and Teamwork*.

"I decided to embrace the inevitability of adversity, stay humble in times of success and serve others, asking and expecting nothing in return," said Trestman.

Human connection, he said, is more important than personal gain.

"Football players wanted me to help them master their craft, but that wasn't enough for me," said Trestman. "I wanted to help them become better men."

The lessons Trestman shared went beyond football and included advice on how current law students could pursue their aspirations successfully and with a sense of fulfillment.

"Football is a zero-sum game every play. Someone wins and someone loses and you have to be able to deal with that."

The talk kicked off the third annual [Professional Football Contract Negotiation Competition](#), which is an opportunity for law students to sharpen their negotiating skills and learn about the NFL contract process.

Claire Davenport is a junior at Tulane University majoring in English and political science.

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