

= Peter Bynoe =

Peter Charles Bernard Bynoe ( born March 20 , 1951 ) is a Chicago attorney and businessman , formerly the only African @-@ American equity partner in the Chicago office of DLA Piper . In 1989 , he and his business partner Bertram Lee were the first African @-@ Americans to buy a controlling interest in a National Basketball Association ( NBA ) team , when they purchased a 37 @. @ 5 % share of the Denver Nuggets basketball team , and he is among the most influential minority figures in sports law and management .

Bynoe kept the Chicago White Sox from leaving Chicago by developing a New Comiskey Park ( now known as U.S. Cellular Field ) . He has become a negotiator for professional sports teams ' venues . In addition , he was involved in the development of the 1996 and 2012 Summer Olympics . Bynoe serves on several boards of directors .

= = Personal Background = =

Born in Boston , Massachusetts , Bynoe came from a well @-@ respected family . His father Victor C. Bynoe , had emigrated from his native Barbados at age 13 , and after graduating from Northeastern University with degrees in Civil Engineering and Law , became a successful attorney . ( At one point , he represented Boston Celtics star Bill Russell . ) At a time when few blacks were being promoted to important positions in government , Victor Bynoe was named to Boston Mayor John B. Hynes ' cabinet in 1950 , serving on the Street Commission . He later became commissioner of Veterans ' Services in Boston , and served on the board of the Boston Housing Authority . Peter 's mother Ethel was American ; she was praised by the black newspapers for her community involvement and volunteerism . Peter also had an uncle John Bynoe , who was active in the fight for civil rights , serving as the regional civil rights director for the United States Department of Health , Education and Welfare .

Bynoe attended William Lloyd Garrison Elementary School , and graduated from Boston Latin School in 1968 . He credited his parents with instilling high standards and expecting him to achieve in school . He also had a love of sports , growing up as a regular Boston Celtics and Boston Red Sox fan ; but although both teams had black players , racial relations in Boston at that time were still tense , and black fans like Bynoe were hesitant to attend the games .

Bynoe 's entire post @-@ secondary education was at Harvard University in Cambridge , Massachusetts . He obtained his bachelor 's degree cum laude at Harvard College in 1972 . He then received his master 's degree , an M.B.A. in 1976 , with an emphasis on finance and marketing , from Harvard Business School . His Juris Doctor from Harvard Law School had a focus on corporate planning and regulation . In addition to being admitted to the practice of law before the Illinois State Bar , Bynoe is a licensed real estate broker in Illinois .

In late November 1987 , he married Linda Jean Walker , who was then vice @-@ president of the fixed @-@ income division of Morgan Stanley in New York .

= = Business career = =

Bynoe began his professional career in 1976 at Citibank . After deciding he didn 't like working for a large corporation , he left New York and moved to Chicago in 1977 . He was hired by James Lowry , a management consultant whom he had met at Harvard . While with Lowry 's firm , Bynoe made a name for himself as someone who could break down racial barriers and get diverse groups to work together . He also became known for his work in minority business development . By 1982 , Bynoe passed the Illinois bar examination . He left Lowry and Associates in 1982 , at which time he founded and managed Telemat Ltd . , a business consulting firm .

His career path changed in 1987 when Harold Washington , whose election campaign he had worked for and contributed to , called Bynoe to inform him that the Chicago White Sox were threatening to leave Chicago . From January 1988 to June 1992 , Bynoe served as the Executive Director of the Illinois Sports Facilities Authority , a joint venture of the City of Chicago and State of

Illinois , which gave him complete supervisory , planning and executing responsibility for the \$ 250 million construction of New Comiskey Park for the Chicago White Sox , which was completed as scheduled and well within its budget . He also became known in Chicago for his business relationships with such influential sports stars as Michael Jordan , a former client with whom he remained friends .

In November 1989 , Bynoe and Bertram Lee purchased the Denver Nuggets . Lee and Bynoe had worked together in Boston years earlier , and Bynoe thought of Lee as a mentor . They had kept in touch , and were involved in several real estate dealings together . But the Nuggets deal was problematic from the start . In fact , it almost fell through because Lee did not have the resources everyone , Bynoe among them , thought he had . Media reports depicted Lee as a wealthy and successful businessman who was a financier with offices in two cities , and formerly part owner of Boston 's WNEV @-@ TV . But Lee and Bynoe were unable to meet the deadline to purchase the team from then @-@ owner Sidney Shlenker . It would later be revealed that Lee had problems raising the needed capital . It was Bynoe , with the assistance of David Stern , Jay Pritzker , and Jerrold Wexler , who salvaged the transaction over the course of six months . The mainstream media reported that Lee and Bynoe were now the first two blacks to own a major sports team , but several of the black newspapers pointed out that the two men were actually managing general partners rather than owners , because the revised agreement to purchase the team meant they owned only a 37 @. @ 5 % stake in the team . Bynoe sold his interest in the franchise in August 1992 . Communications Satellite Corporation 's ( COMSAT ) Video Enterprises subsidiary put up 62 @. @ 5 % of the \$ 65 million needed to purchase the Nuggets .

Bynoe was hired in 2008 by Chicago @-@ based Loop Capital Markets LLC . Bynoe serves as Managing Director of Corporate Finance .

In August 2013 , Bynoe left his executive role at Loop Capital Markets LLC to become CEO of Rewards Network , a company controlled by investor Sam Zell that offers loyalty programs for restaurants .

= = Other Achievements = =

Bynoe served as a consultant to the Atlanta @-@ Fulton County Recreation Authority and the Atlanta Committee to Organize the Olympic Games to plan the 85 @, @ 000 seat Centennial Olympic Stadium within a \$ 210 million construction budget . The stadium has been converted to the 45 @, @ 000 seat Turner Field baseball stadium for the Atlanta Braves who use it under a lease agreement Bynoe negotiated . Bynoe became a partner at DLA Piper Rudnick Gray Cary LLP ( US ) in 1995 when he joined the firm and remains a member of the firm 's Executive Committee . Bynoe as head of DLA Piper 's Sports Facilities Practice Group negotiated new facilities for the Cincinnati Reds and Bengals , Miami Heat , Washington Redskins , Milwaukee Brewers , and Columbus Blue Jackets . He specialized in infrastructure projects and represented institutional clients such as : The Boeing Company , Sara Lee Corporation , Essence Communications , and CNA Insurance . Bynoe also was involved in the 2012 Summer Olympics , and was a backer of Barack Obama .

In addition , Bynoe is a Director of Frontier Communications Corporation [ 1 ] , Covanta Holding Company [www.covantaenergy.com](http://www.covantaenergy.com) and Signature Group Holdings , Inc . [ 2 ] . He is a Trustee of the Goodman Theatre , the Rush University Medical Center and The CORE Center for the Research and Cure of Infectious Diseases . He formerly served as Chairman of the Chicago Plan Commission Chicago Plan Commission , the Chicago Landmarks Commission Chicago Commission Landmarks , and the Illinois Sports Facilities Authority , and was a director of Jacor Communications and Blue Chip Broadcasting . Bynoe has been a director of Covanta since 2004 . In 2007 , Bynoe was announced as a director for Citizens Communications ( which later changed its name to Frontier Communications ) . In the past , Bynoe has been a member of the Harvard Board of Overseers . He has also served as a director for Uniroyal Technology Corporation , Jacor Communications ( acquired by Clear Channel Communications ) , J & G Industries , Huffman @-@ Koos , Inc . , the River Valley Savings Bank , and Blue Chip Broadcasting ( acquired by Radio One , Inc ) .

= = Honors = =

Bynoe has been designated an Illinois " Super Lawyer " for 2005 and 2006 based on research jointly conducted by Law & Politics and Chicago magazines .