

IMGL—The gaming industry's world connection site

With this inaugural issue of the International Masters of Gaming Law's Asian/Pacific-focused magazine in concert with Asia Gaming Brief, the IMGL has officially circled the globe with five gaming publications (American Gaming Lawyer, European Gaming Lawyer, Canadian Gaming Lawyer, La Ley Del Juego and Asian Gaming Lawyer). This is a fitting result for the gaming industry's premier international gaming association.



Robert W. Stocker II

The IMGL is a unique association of individuals active in the gaming industry. Its members currently come from 41 countries and 36 states in the United States (both categories of which are constantly expanding). In structure and number of members, it is equally represented between international membership and United States-based membership. Its general members consist of private practice attorneys who have been carefully vetted by an approving vote of both an IMGL Membership Committee and all the IMGL general members. Its membership base is enhanced by a number of additional membership categories – gaming executives, regulators, educators, accountants, compliance officers, consultants, in-house legal counsel, counsel (additional members in the same law firm as a general member) and young lawyers focused on the gaming industry. Membership in the IMGL is by sponsorship and approval – it is not gained by simply writing a check. As a result, the IMGL is able to focus on participation in its ranks by the best gaming professionals in the world.

The IMGL sponsors two IMGL gaming conferences each year (one in North America and one elsewhere in the world) – for example, this year the IMGL conferences are in St. Thomas, AVI and Lima, Peru (in conjunction with the International Association of Gaming Regulators). The IMGL also conducts Masterclasses on current gaming issues at a variety of unrelated international trade shows and conferences. IMGL members also have access to publication of articles in a variety of unrelated gaming publications as well as the IMGL-sponsored UNLV Gaming Law Journal, IMGL's own five regional gaming magazines and IMGL's own website gaming materials.

Most importantly, the IMGL serves as a meeting place and sophisticated discussion group for the world's gaming lawyers and related gaming professionals. The best of the best attend and speak at IMGL events and address topical gaming issues in the print media and numerous conferences throughout the world.

Formed in 2002, the IMGL has steadily grown to the point where it now has over 350 members, making it by far the largest vetted invitation-only gaming membership organization in the world.

As the gaming industry continues to expand throughout the world, an increasing number of jurisdictions require experienced gaming professionals for guidance through the intricacies of the gaming business, both land-based and Internet. As a result, the number of sophisticated,

knowledgeable gaming professionals is constantly growing, and with that growth comes additional vetted members in the IMGL.

From its inception, the IMGL has focused on gaming education and connectivity amongst gaming professionals in a multitude of ways. From its carefully thought out international representative senior management structure, its focus on conferences, Masterclass programs, in-house publications, independent publications, law review publications and sophisticated multipurpose website, the IMGL offers a comprehensive set of services, venues and contact points for both the sophisticated gaming professional and those individuals seeking entry into and an understanding of the gaming industry.

Any individual or organization interested in connecting with the IMGL may do so by going onto the IMGL website (www.GamingLawMasters.com or just Google "International Masters of Gaming Law"), by contacting Sue McNabb at Sue@GamingLawMasters.com or by contacting IMGL's President Joerg Hofmann at IMGLPresident@GamingLawMasters.com or IMGL's Vice President Michael Zatezalo at mzatezalo@keglerbrown.com or any member of the IMGL, and they will be happy to explain the membership process and direct you according to your interest. For those individuals and organizations interested in the speaking and publication programs of the IMGL, feel free to contact Morten Ronde, who oversees the IMGL publication and conference programs, at Morten@GamingLawMasters.com at your convenience.

*About the author

Robert W. Stocker II is a member of Dickinson Wright PLLC where he chairs the firm's Gaming Practice Group. Mr. Stocker has been recognized by his peers for inclusion in Chambers Global, Chambers USA, Best Lawyers in America, and Michigan Super Lawyers for his expertise in gaming law, and he has been elected a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation. He is a founding member and past president of the International Masters of Gaming Law; Chair of the American Bar Association annual program on gaming enforcement, the Gaming Law Minefield Conference; immediate past Chair of the Gaming Law Committee of the American Bar Association; a member of the Editorial Board of Gaming Law Review and Economics; and a member of the International Association of Gaming Advisors. Mr. Stocker has spoken on numerous gaming, business, and alternative insurance issues at a variety of national and international conferences and educational programs. He can be reached at rstocker@dickinsonwright.com.