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>> **Letter from the Editor**

The current edition of *American Gaming Lawyer* is an interesting, eclectic assortment of articles ranging from “Personal Perspectives” to International Jurisdictional Updates, with many hot topics in between.

The issue opens with an excellent history of gaming in Louisiana, discussing the impediments to future economic development which are exacerbated by Louisiana’s stagnant gaming statutes. Chairman of the Louisiana Gaming Control Board, Ronnie Jones, presents a perfect balance of the historical development of gaming in Louisiana based on a combination of his personal experience in law enforcement and his enlightened economic development views that could lead the industry out of its current malaise and into a positive revenue future.

Under “Gaming Law and Policy,” the issue includes two “Personal Perspectives” that provide thought provoking insider views on aspects of the evolution of gaming. Richard Schuetz offers a refreshingly humorous assessment of the often ludicrous breadth, and illogical process, of suitability applications required by gaming jurisdictions. The second “Personal Perspective” is a piece by Glenn Wichinsky which presents a thought provoking discussion of the evolution of casino gambling and the impact of different generations on gambling, games, and casino development. The cocktail attire and tuxedo elegance of the past juxtaposed to the untucked shirts, beach wear and gym styles of today’s gamblers can make the admirers of a bygone era nostalgic for the glitz and glamor of centuries past!

The next pair of articles is a fast forward to very recent changes in law regarding legalized marijuana and the parallels to regulated gaming. First, Bacigalupi, Light, Tran, and Rutledge discuss the potential minefield of state marijuana laws versus federal laws as related to the highly regulated gaming industry. The authors have presented well-researched information with interesting questions related to potential problems raised by the conflicting laws, with thoughts for future discussion. Next Adam Crepelle – a member of the United Houma Tribe and award winning filmmaker – provides an overview of the potential of the cannabis industry on tribal economic development, pointing out parallels to the development of gaming in Indian Country.

The Jurisdictional Updates section has discussions of recent developments in international jurisdictions. Dr. Wiklund presents a detailed analysis of Swedish gambling law, focusing on the proportionality test and its parallels between alcohol and gambling policies. Jakub Kolomicenko presents an overview of the recent 2017 Czech Gaming Act,

with a candid discussion of the potential negative effects of the law. An update on Illinois discusses a recent decision of the Illinois Supreme Court, *J & J Ventures*, which established the Illinois Gaming Board’s exclusive jurisdiction over “use agreements” for video

gaming machines. Author William Bogot offers his assessment of the prospect for future litigation raised by the Illinois Supreme Court’s decision.

The next pair of articles focuses on security, surveillance and safety issues for gaming properties. Florence, Melendez and Flores discuss the fast paced developments in IT and high definition video technology which greatly enhance casino security and surveillance capabilities. The authors have substantial experience advising the gaming industry on potential security issues and how lax security can negatively impact revenue streams and compromise the property. Switching to safety issues, David Willis points out litigation trends faced by casino properties, which are often viewed as the proverbial “deep pockets” by some attorneys and patrons. Willis focuses on the prevention of slip and fall cases, and offers practical approaches to minimize or prevent costly litigation and best practices that can be taken should an accident occur.

The final article, authored by longtime *American Gaming Lawyer* contributor William Thompson, presents an enthralling history of the rise and fall of gambling in Cuba. Professor Thompson weaves through Cuba’s turbulent political history of dictators, mob bosses and other dubious characters. Professor Thompson’s article is a perfect lead in to the IMGL spring conference in Miami, which sits a mere 90 miles from the shores of Cuba, but which is decades apart in development.

Finally, I would like to thank the many contributors to the Spring 2017 edition of *American Gaming Lawyer*. We appreciate your support of IMGL’s educational mission. ♣



Sue McNabb

Sue McNabb has worked with the state legislature and served as Assistant Attorney General for the Louisiana Department of Justice and as an attorney for the Louisiana Legislative Auditor. She has an extensive background in corporate law in the private sector where she worked as General Counsel of an INC 500 Company and as Vice President of Administration with a national not-for-profit corporation.

Sue served on the board of directors of the Louisiana Association on Compulsive Gambling and was formerly a member of the board of the National Council on Problem Gambling. She also serves on the board of the Louisiana Center for Women in Government and Business and was appointed by Governor Bobby Jindal to serve on the Louisiana Women’s Policy and Research Commission. She received the IMGL president’s award for 2013. She currently serves as the Executive Director of the IMGL.