



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Dennis J. Whittlesey
Editor

The State of Sports Betting in Indian Country

BY DENNIS J. WHITTLESEY

This issue of *Indian Gaming Lawyer* is dedicated to a recent Supreme Court decision that legalizes sports betting in states where such gambling is not illegal. This decision was rendered on May 14, 2018, and a number of Indian Tribes with casinos are anxious to offer sports betting to expand the gaming opportunity now available. To coin an old phrase, “The Gold Rush is on!”

The potential for a major treatise on the subject of sports betting in tribal casinos is likely to be written once (1) states take action to legalize sports betting where necessary and (2) the existing Tribal-State Gaming Compacts have been amended to allow sports betting. And, as the reader will see in the various articles in this publication, a substantial number of states already are dealing with the issue and it is easy to predict that there soon will be something close to universal sports betting in tribal casinos.

The decision opening the door for this emerging revolution is *Murphy, et al. v. National Collegiate Athletic Association, et al.* The process already has begun with gaming seeking negotiations for Compact modifications. The first step will be state legislatures enacting new laws to allow sports betting. Only then will the affected states be in a position to execute the new provisions.

We have asked leading experts in Indian laws and Indian Gaming to examine specific jurisdictions that were randomly selected by this Editor. Most of the authors are frequent contributors to *IGL* and well known to the readers. And we are fortunate to have them as contributors to this issue.

ARIZONA, NEW MEXICO AND CALIFORNIA

Heidi McNeil Staudenmaier reports on three states with which she is well familiar. She is a partner in the Phoenix law firm of Snell and Wilmer and has written for each issue of this magazine since it began publication in the Spring of 2016. The gaming tribes in these states are understandably interested in offering sports betting and the negotiations are already well underway.

WASHINGTON AND OREGON

These two states are addressed by another contributor to this magazine since it commenced publication: Dr. Stephen Dow Beckham, Professor of History at Lewis & Clark College, Portland, Oregon. Dr. Beckham is widely recognized as the leading Ethnohistorian in the United States and readers will once again be treated to his outstanding research and writing. And, in the interests of full disclosure, he and this writer have worked together continuously for decades.

OKLAHOMA

Dean Luthey is a Senior Partner in the Tulsa, Oklahoma law firm of Gable Gotwals. He is General Counsel for the Oklahoma Indian Gaming Association as well as a renowned litigation lawyer who has argued before the United States Supreme Court. He is a powerful speaker and the readers will soon discover that he is a compelling writer.

MICHIGAN AND MASSACHUSETTS

John Roberts has written two outstanding articles reporting on these states. John is a long-time active member of the International Masters of Gaming Law and his articles make clear that he is an outstanding writer.

CONCLUSION

We know you will find this issue of *IGL* to be a valuable guide map to the world of sports betting in Indian Country. There can be no doubt that this expansion of gaming opportunity will be a great boost for the Indian Gaming industry and the tribes that operate casinos that can operate sports betting. ❄