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Honoring IMGL's 2017 Regulators of the Year

By Michael E. Zatezalo

Notwithstanding the unusual summer weather in the United States, the IMGL Spring Conference in Turnberry Isle, Miami, Florida, held on May 10-12, was another outstanding IMGL conference. I would like to thank the co-chairs of the conference, Marc Dunbar and Dan Wallach for their efforts in not only putting together a first class program but also in selecting an outstanding venue – the Turnberry Isle Resort. After the conference, Marc Dunbar also arranged a side trip to the Gulfstream Racetrack for a day at the races. I would also like to thank our keynote speakers Jim Allen, Chairman, President and CEO of Seminole Hard Rock Entertainment, Inc. and James Maida, President of CEO Gaming Laboratories International, LLC for their engaging and thought provoking remarks.

In early June, IMGL provided Masterclass panels at the summer meeting of the National Council of Legislators from Gaming States (“NCLGS”) held in Denver, Colorado. IMGL will once again be working with the Spectrum Gaming Group to develop panels for the NCLGS Winter Conference which will be held in Miami January 5-7, 2018.

One of the highlights of each year is the IMGL reception at G2E in Las Vegas and the presentation of “2017 IMGL Regulator of the Year Awards” for both North America and Indian Country. This year’s Regulator of the Year – North America award is Ronnie Jones, Chairman of the Louisiana Gaming Control Board. Congratulations, Ronnie.

This year’s Regulator of the Year – Indian Country award will actually have two (2) recipients: David Vialpando, Chairman of the Santa Ysabel Tribal Gaming Commission in California and Terry Hale, Chief Gaming Regulator of the Seminole Nation Gaming Authority in Oklahoma. The awards are based not only upon a recipient’s work as a regulator but also on his/her contribution to the gaming industry and a demonstration of service to the community. Congratulations David and Terry.

The IMGL Masterclasses™ continue to be popular and IMGL speakers are sought after in connection with gaming conferences throughout the world. The following is a list of Masterclasses scheduled for the rest of the year:

DATE



September 6-7	KPMG – eGaming Summit Isle of Man
September 13-15	Betting on Sports – London
October 26-28	Malta iGaming Seminar (MIGS) Conference – Malta
October 31 – November 1	Excellence in iGaming (EIG) – Berlin
November 21-22	Eastern European Gaming Summit- Sofia, Bulgaria
November 22-25	Summit in iGaming Malta (SIGMA) – Malta

The IMGL Fall Conference is being held in Copenhagen, Denmark, on September 10-12 at the Copenhagen Marriott Hotel. The conference will include, but not be limited to, presentations on (1) the latest Anti-Money Directive and how it is impacting the gambling sector throughout Europe; (2) the impact of the United States Supreme Court’s upcoming hearing on New Jersey’s challenge of the restrictions placed upon sports betting imposed by the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act; (3) an update on the latest trends and developments in Europe; and (4) a CEO panel which will discuss the future of the gaming industry in light of the expansion of land based casinos, growth of Internet gaming, the rise of eSports, growth of lotteries and skill games.

Another highlight of the Copenhagen conference will be the presentation of the 2017 IMGL Regulator of the Year-Europe. This year’s Regulator of the Year – Europe will be Birgitte Sand, CEO of the Danish Gambling Authority. Birgitte has been in her current position since 2008 and is a member of the board of trustees of the International Association of Gaming Regulators. Birgitte has also been instrumental in the planning of the IMGL Copenhagen conference. Congratulations, Birgitte.

I look forward to seeing you in Denmark. Details regarding the Copenhagen conference and registration can be accessed on the IMGL website at imgl.org.