

The IMGL Continues to Be An Educational Force in Gaming

By Michael E. Zatezalo



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President

As the incoming President of the IMGL, and on behalf of all IMGL members, I would like to express congratulations and gratitude to our immediate past president, Joerg Hoffman, for a job well done. During his two year term Joerg was a tireless promotor of the IMGL and its mission.

One of the main purposes of the IMGL is to be an educational organization. To that end two years ago Joerg introduced the IMGL Masterclass concept at ICE in London. The IMGL Masterclass Program is now held in connection with various gaming conferences around the world and enables conference attendees to hear from panels of experts on the latest developments in the gaming industry. These panels consist of leading gaming experts including gaming attorneys, regulators, members of the gaming industry, consultants and educators. The IMGL Masterclass concept has proven so popular that in 2016 the IMGL will be conducting Masterclasses in connection with G2E Asia; The Gaming Summit in Gibraltar; the *i*-Gaming Super Show in Amsterdam; the KPMG *e*-Gaming Summit on the Isle of Man; the *I*-Gaming Seminar in Malta; the Eastern European Gaming Summit in Sofia, Bulgaria; the European Association for the Study of Gambling; and the IAGR Conference in Sydney, Australia. As a result of the popularity of the Masterclass concept, our leadership is currently reviewing additional requests for holding Masterclass programs at other gaming conferences and events around the world. Stay tuned for further details.

In February the IMGL co-sponsored the American Bar Association's Gaming Law Minefield program which was well attended and had an outstanding group of panelists. The IMGL spring conference is just around the corner and will be held in San Francisco. The conference dates are April 20-22. Not only will there be panels on

Daily Fantasy Sports from both the industry and government relations perspective, there will also be a dual track agenda with one track dedicated to Indian gaming. The conference will be held at the Fairmont Hotel and featured speakers will include the Honorable Willie Brown, former Mayor of San Francisco, and Carmen Policy, the former general manager of the San Francisco Forty-Niners NFL football team. Many thanks to the co-chairs John Maloney and John Roberts for their commitment in organizing the conference.

IMGL's fall conference will be held in Dublin, Ireland, this year on October 23-25. The conference will be held at the Shelbourne Hotel, one of Dublin's oldest and most elegant hotels located on St. Stephen's Green. More details to follow.

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As part of the IMGL's educational mission we now have six major publications: *European Gaming Lawyer*, *American Gaming Lawyer*, *Canadian Gaming Lawyer*, *Asian Gaming Lawyer*, *Indian Gaming Lawyer*, and *La Ley Del Juego*, which is published in the Spanish language and focuses on all Spanish speaking jurisdictions in Europe, Central and South America. These publications have become a valuable source of information on the latest legal and industry developments in the gaming industry. I encourage all of our members to contribute content to these publications.

Our membership continues to grow and our receptions at ICE and G2E Asia continue to be great networking and relationship building events. The IMGL reception at G2E Asia will be held on May 18 at the Venetian Macau. I encourage any members who travel to Macau for G2E Asia to attend the reception. As evidenced from the many IMGL events around the world, 2016 looks to be a busy year for the IMGL and its members, and I look forward to seeing and working with you to further promote the IMGL brand.