

Fall Conference Focuses On Regulatory Reform

By J. Kelly Duncan



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As my second and final year as President of the International Masters of Gaming Law winds down, I am very encouraged by the progress that I see in the relationship between gaming regulators and the industry that they regulate.

The invitation by the International Association of Gaming Regulators to the IMGL to co-locate their conferences in Oslo was enthusiastically received by the members of our organization. The co-location of these preeminent organizations' conferences presents our respective members with an unprecedented opportunity not only to meet and discuss in both professional and social settings significant issues facing the ever changing global gaming industry, but to seek actual agreement relative to long-discussed regulatory reforms. As such, the 2013 IAGR Conference and the 2013 IMGL Autumn Conference in Oslo are a reflection of the mutual interest of regulators and the regulated in not only improving their communication, but also identifying and implementing investigation, enforcement, and compliance practices that are reasonably and rationally designed to ensure the integrity of the gaming industry.

Several of the sessions at the IMGL Autumn Conference will specifically focus on regulatory reform. A forum on Cross-Border Regulatory Reform relative to online gaming will analyze regulatory models that should be considered in this fast growing area of the gaming industry that demands a harmonious regulatory regime designed to ensure cross-border reciprocity of laws and standards. A panel on Internet Gaming in Developing Markets will address regulatory approaches in established online gaming jurisdictions to nascent ones in, for example, the United States, and a panel on the EU Action Plan will address the challenges in the EU in effectively and reasonably regulating online gaming. These

speakers from around the world are uniquely qualified to identify both the challenges for new Internet gaming jurisdictions and lessons learned from established ones. I am equally excited about our panel on Regulatory Reform & Implementation. Moderated by former Illinois gaming regulator and gaming company general counsel Donna More, participants on this panel will include such noted gaming

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regulators as Susan Hensel, who is the current President of IAGR; the UK's Jenny Williams, Commissioner & Chief Executive, Gambling Commission; and Andre Wilsenach, Executive Director, Alderney Gambling Control Commission, as well as industry Chief Compliance Officer Frank Donaghue of Penn National Gaming, and former Iowa and Mississippi gaming regulator, Sean McGuinness. This panel will address some of the regulatory reforms discussed during the 2011 IMGL Conference (a link to which appears on the IMGL website) and, more importantly, the prospects for implementation of same.

Panels reflecting the evolution of the gaming industry worldwide will focus on Mobile Gaming, Social Gaming, Binary Options, and trends in the liberalization of gaming laws in Europe and the United States, while others will address developments in more traditional forms of gaming, including Sports Betting and Lotteries. Finally, with U.S. jurisdictions coming online, poker liquidity—whether achieved by state-to-state compacts or sharing of liquidity with established European jurisdictions—will be examined with a view to jurisdictions, such as Canada, that already have cross border compacts in operation.

Based on the foregoing, I cannot think of a better final Autumn Conference during my tenure as IMGL President. I look forward to seeing many of you in Oslo. ♣