

## IMGL Continues Commitment to Engage With Regulators

By Joerg Hofmann



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It is worth beginning by reminding ourselves what a unique association the International Masters of Gaming Law (IMGL) is. Although IMGL provides a platform for networking with the leading gaming lawyers and industry figures across the globe, its fundamental purpose is education. It must be stressed, however, that this education by its members for other members and the gaming industry generally must be done at the highest level. This is achieved through organizing conferences which people from across the globe come to attend, and our publications. *Casino Lawyer* is very much part of this as one of the flagship publications of the IMGL.

In this context, it is appropriate to mention our spring conference for 2014 in San Diego. From 23 April until 25 April 2014, we have put together an educational and social agenda to cater to all members. In this regard, I must give my special thanks to John Maloney and John Roberts. Through their industriousness, we have put in place the framework for a very successful conference – thank you John and John.

I wish to draw special attention to our reception and dinner on Thursday, 24 April 2014. We will be “all aboard,” so to speak, the *USS Midway* for a memorable evening. For the uninitiated, the *USS Midway* has finished active service, after seeing action in Vietnam and the Persian Gulf. Accordingly, for those who have signed up to this event, you will not be condemned to six months of deck-work on the high seas!

For the San Diego conference, we have a “dual track” system in place. One track will be dedicated to global gaming, while the other will be dedicated to Indian gaming. As you would expect, we will be covering the most relevant topics in the gaming industry, such as mergers and acquisitions in the gaming industry, regulatory/police investigations, payment processing, social casino gaming, and the expansion of Internet gaming in the United States.

ICE 2014 in London was once again a great success for

the IMGL, although I have no doubt that the experience of moving around London while the transport workers were on strike reinforced American opinion on European trade unions. We all did, however, survive and thrive. In addition to our annual IMGL reception at ICE, which was heavily oversubscribed, we conducted, for the first time, the “IMGL Masterclass at ICE.” The IMGL Masterclass proved to be a winner with the attendees at ICE. Demand for seating exceeded the supply, but, fortunately, we were able to open up new supply lines to accommodate the attendees.

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Our attention turns to Asia during the second quarter of 2014. First, the IMGL will hold its annual IMGL Reception at G2E Asia, an event which is growing in popularity each year. Second, we have organized a new event for the IMGL calendar: “East Meets West Regulator Summit.” This event will take place on the stunningly beautiful Boracay Island in the Philippines, with the scheduled dates being 24 – 25 May 2014. The overall objective is to create an environment

where regulators and lawyers can come together in order to transfer their knowledge and experience. From a personal perspective, this is particularly pleasing because one of my objectives as president is to make the IMGL a more inclusive organization for regulators. More broadly, the event represents the IMGL’s continuing commitment to engage with regulators and generate further brand awareness in emerging jurisdictions, particularly those in East Asia.

Finally, please keep in mind our autumn conference for 2014, which will be held in Florence, Italy. Our final dates have not been finally confirmed as of now, but it will likely be held during 5 -7 November 2014. When dates are finalized, you will be immediately notified. As always, I encourage you to attend, not only for maintaining and building your professional profile among your peers, but also for the chance to visit the “birthplace of the Renaissance.” ♣