

GLS Year in Review

By Jeff Rodefer



This has certainly been a difficult year. Many, if not all, of you have been affected by COVID-19 in some way – you may have been ill, have family or friends that were infected, or you may even find yourself unemployed wondering what is next. This global pandemic has left its mark not only on the lives that have been lost, but also in what is now undoubtedly the “new normal” for how we interact socially. These repercussions have been and will continue to be profound for each of us and for the domestic and worldwide economy. I sincerely hope you and your families are safe and well.

This is also a year marked by long overdue discussion and changes regarding social inequities and treatment in our country. As noted by Barack Obama, “Change will not come if we wait for some other person, or if we wait for some other time. We are the ones we’ve been waiting for. We are the change we seek.” Likewise, Nelson Mandela once stated that “Education is the most powerful weapon which you use to change the world.” Let’s hope that as we educate ourselves on these important issues, our country and planet become a more equitable and just place.

“Change will not come if we wait for some other person, or if we wait for some other time. We are the ones we’ve been waiting for. We are the change we seek.”

This year, Rob Ziems, President of Aruze Gaming joined the Executive Committee. Rob, as you may know, has a wealth of gaming industry experience and we look forward to his valuable contributions.

On March 25, 2020 the Gaming Law Section’s Executive Committee made \$5,000 donations to both the “United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierra” and the “United Way of Southern Nevada” to aid relief efforts throughout the state to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. If you are interested in contributing to these relief funds (100% of the money will be directed to those in need of aid, including medical supplies, food, utilities and housing assistance), please visit:

- [Give in Northern Nevada](https://app.mobilecause.com/form/N6HpFA?vid=6c10x)
<https://app.mobilecause.com/form/N6HpFA?vid=6c10x>
- [Give in Southern Nevada](https://www.uwsn.org/civicrm/contribute/transact?reset=1&id=27)
<https://www.uwsn.org/civicrm/contribute/transact?reset=1&id=27>



This is the 20th anniversary of the Gaming Law Section’s revival. You will note that most of the update information for the past year is set forth in the on pages 6 and 7. There are, however, a couple of areas to highlight. In this issue, we are fortunate to have U.S. Senator Richard H. Bryan (Ret.) write an historical view of “Nevada’s Gaming Odyssey” that is a must read on page 9. This year, we are also honored to feature Terry Johnson, Member of the Nevada Gaming Control Board.

Due to the ongoing social distancing concerns associated with the pandemic, the 2020 Gaming Law Conference will be a virtual presentation over two days. The first day (November 5th from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.) will feature presentations on responsible gaming and ethics, and the second day (November 6th from 9:00 a.m. to noon) will consist of presentations on sports betting, a GCB Chiefs discussion panel

and a conversation with Sandra Douglass Morgan, Chair of the Nevada Gaming Control Board. For more details about the conference, see the ad on the back cover of this issue. Online registration is available at <https://members.nvbar.org/cvweb/cgibin/eventsdll.dll/EventInfo?SESSIONALTCID=CLE-4470-2002>.

Please visit Gaming Law Section’s webpage at <https://www.nvbar.org/content/gaming-law-section/> for information about events and publications. If you would like to purchase a copy of the *Nevada Gaming Law Practice and Procedure Manual* (1st ed. 2016) or *Nevada Gaming Law Index* (2nd ed. 2019), you may do so by contacting Robert Horne, Communications Manager for the State Bar of Nevada at 702-382-2200 or rhorne@nvbar.org.

Finally, I would like to take a moment to remember my dad, Robert J. “Bob” Rodefer, who passed on June 25th after 90 full years. He was a lawyer, an FBI agent for nearly 25 years, and a cowboy at heart. He loved horseback riding, hunting, fishing, traveling, daily workouts, and rooting for his beloved Ohio State Buckeyes. A man who always had a joke or a funny comment, including calling my office and telling my secretary “tell him it’s Abraham Lincoln.” I’ll miss the talks, lunches, and attending Nevada Wolf Pack football and basketball games with him.



Jeff Rodefer is in private practice concentrating in the areas of gaming regulation and licensing, gaming compliance, state and local taxation, and general corporate. He has been Chairman of the State Bar of Nevada’s

Gaming Law Section since 2000 and serves as a member of the UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law’s Gaming Law Advisory Board and a Trustee of the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation.

GLS UPDATE

- **2019 Gaming Law Conference.** The 2019 Gaming Law Conference drew 256 attendees to hear presentations about Cybersecurity, 2019 Legislative Update, Nevada's First Gambling Treatment Diversion Court, Gaming Compliance, Regulators Roundtable, ethics and a keynote address from Marc Badain, President of the Oakland (now Las Vegas) Raiders.



Keynote Lunch Speaker
Marc Badain, President,
Oakland (Las Vegas) Raiders

Nevada's First Gambling Treatment Diversion Court: One-Year Anniversary



(L-R) Hon. Linda Bell, Chief Judge, 8th Judicial District Court-Dept. VII and Hon. Cheryl Moss, Judge, 8th Judicial District Court, Family Court Division-Dept. I.



(L-R) Stephanie Hui, Gambling Treatment Diversion Court Coordinator, 8th Judicial District Court and Carol O'Hare, Executive Director, Nevada Council on Problem Gambling



2019 Legislative Update (L-R) Assemblyman Steve Yeager (D-District 6), Nevada State Legislature and Virginia Valentine, President & CEO, Nevada Resort Association



Gaming Compliance (L-R) Steve Martino, Senior VP of Compliance, MGM Resorts International, Nadia Akopyan, Director of Regulatory Compliance & Compliance Officer, Aruze Gaming America, Inc., and Dave Staley, Special Agent, Nevada Gaming Control Board, Investigations Division-Compliance Unit.



Regulators Roundtable (L-R) Jaime Black, Chief, Administration Division, Nevada Gaming Control Board, Sandra Douglass Morgan, Chair, Nevada Gaming Control Board and Dr. Tony Alamo, M.D., Chairman, Nevada Gaming Commission



(L-R) Chair Morgan and Chairman Alamo

GLS UPDATE

- **GLS eNewsletter.** This is the second year for this digital only quarterly publication under the editorial leadership of Erica L. Okerberg. The Q3 2020 edition will be published by October 22nd. All issues may be viewed at <https://www.nvbar.org/content/gaming-law-section/>.
- **Nevada Gaming Lawyer magazine.** Past issues of the *Nevada Gaming Lawyer* (2007-2019) may be accessed at the link above.
- **GLS Pro Bono Program for Gaming Employees.** This program was started several years ago to provide legal assistance to indigent individuals seeking to exercise their appeal rights to be registered as gaming employees with the Nevada Gaming Control Board. If you are interested in being listed among the lawyers volunteering to be assigned case from a legal aid agency in the state, please contact Robert Horne, Communications Manager for the State Bar of Nevada at 702-382-2200 or rhorne@nvbar.org. A brochure of practice tips for lawyers accepting a case is available on the link above.
- **Nevada Gaming Law Practice and Procedure Manual (1st ed. 2016).** This first of its kind manual sets forth the areas most common to the practice of gaming law in 18 chapters authored by regulators and leading gaming lawyers. To receive your copy, please contact Robert Horne.
- **Nevada Gaming Law Index (2nd ed. 2019).** This guide provides the user with an easy-to-use source to research case law (state and federal) and Nevada Attorney General Opinions on Nevada gaming law and related topics, and is organized in a headnote format by using the Table of Contents in the front or the Table of Legal Authorities in the back. To receive your copy, please contact Robert Horne.



GLS PHILANTHROPIC UPDATE

Since 2000, the Gaming Law Section has funded over \$500,000 in scholarships, donations and various sponsorships. This past year, the following philanthropic endeavors were undertaken:

- **\$25,000 for Gaming Law Section Scholarship** The “Gaming Law Section Scholarship” at the UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law was renewed to benefit students in the LL.M. Gaming Law and Regulation program. The funds will be distributed in annual installments of \$12,500 for 2020 and 2021.
- **\$10,000 for COVID-19 Relief** \$5,000 was donated to both the “United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierra” and the “United Way of Southern Nevada” to aid ongoing COVID-19 relief efforts throughout the state.
- **\$500 for the State Bar of Nevada High School Mock Trial Competition.** Finally, the Gaming Law Section was again the Gold Level sponsor for this annual event.



NOW AVAILABLE

\$30.00 each

Contact **Robert Horne**, Communications Manager
at 702-382-2200 or email: rhorne@nvbar.org