

STATE BAR OF NEVADA  
**GAMING LAW SECTION**

***Executive Committee Biographies***  
(Revised February 2025)

**Jeffrey R. Rodefer, Chair**

Firm Name: Nevada Tax Commission

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Term Expires: May 2027

Jeff has been a Nevada lawyer for more than 30 years. In 2022, he was appointed by Governor Steve Sisolak to the Nevada Tax Commission. He previously worked for 15 years as in-house corporate counsel for two public gaming companies. He also served over 13 years in the Nevada Attorney General's Office, including more than eight years as counsel to the Nevada Gaming Commission and Nevada Gaming Control Board, where he last held the position of Assistant Chief Deputy Attorney General. He is the author of, among other publications, the *Nevada Gaming Law Index* (1<sup>st</sup> ed. 1999, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 2019); and *Internet Gambling in Nevada: Overview of Federal Law Affecting Assembly Bill 466*, 6 Gaming Law Review 393 (2002). Jeff is a graduate of the University of Nevada, Reno receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration (Finance and Accounting) and earned his Juris Doctorate degree from Willamette University College of Law in Salem, Oregon. In addition to the State Bar of Nevada, Jeff is also a member of the State Bars of California, Colorado and Oregon. In 2000, Jeff was asked by the State Bar of Nevada's Board of Governors to revive the dormant Gaming Law Section and be its Chair. In 2010, the State Bar of Nevada named Jeff its first recipient of the "Volunteer Lawyer of the Year" award. In 2012, the Board of Regents for the Nevada System of Higher Education appointed him as a Trustee to the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation, where he served a Chairman of the Board of Trustees in 2021 and 2022. In 2016, he was named to the Gaming Law Advisory Board at the UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law.

**P. Gregory Giordano, Vice Chair.**

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Greg is a partner and the Vice Chairman of the Gaming Practice Group in the Las Vegas office of the law firm of McDonald Carano Wilson LLP. Greg began his private gaming law practice in 1993 by working with Bob Faiss in the Gaming and Regulatory Law Department of the law firm of Lionel Sawyer & Collins for almost 13 years. Prior to joining Bob Faiss at Lionel Sawyer & Collins, Greg served for 4 years as the first Chief of the Corporate Securities Division of the Nevada State Gaming Control Board, and before that Greg served as a Deputy Attorney General with the Nevada Attorney General's Office for 5 years, with the last 1 ½ years thereof in the Gaming Division. Greg graduated summa cum laude in 1978 with a B.A. degree in Business Administration/Accounting and History from the College of Notre Dame (now known as Notre Dame de Namur University) in Belmont, CA. He obtained his J.D. degree from the Santa Clara University School of Law in 1981. Besides the State Bar of Nevada and its Gaming Law Section, Greg is also a member of the State Bar of California, the ABA, the International Masters of Gaming Law, and the International Association of Gaming Advisors, where he is a former Trustee. In addition, Greg currently serves as the Chair of the ABA General Practice, Solo & Small Firm Division's Gaming Law Committee, and as a Vice Chair of the ABA's Business Law Section's Gaming Law Committee. Greg is also named in The Best Lawyers in America®, Gaming Law, 2005-2018 editions, and Chambers USA - America's Leading Lawyers for Business, Gaming & Licensing, 2005-2018 editions, and Mountain States Super Lawyers 2008-2018.

**Erin Barnett.**

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Erin is Senior Vice President and General Counsel of Affinity Gaming, and has oversight of all legal affairs impacting the company's 7 casinos. Prior to joining Affinity Gaming, Erin was engaged in the private practice of law, with the Nevada based firms McDonald Carano and Marquis Aurbach, where she specialized in real estate and business transactions. She also served as the Associate General Counsel for The Greenspun Corporation, a prominent media company and real estate developer. Erin holds a Bachelor of Laws degree from Dalhousie Law School, Nova Scotia, Canada.

**Jaime K. Black.**

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Jaime is a Principal Deputy General Counsel within the Legal Division of the Nevada Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB). Prior to joining the LCB, Jaime worked for the Nevada Gaming Control Board for more than 9 years in various roles, spending over 6 years as Chief of the Administration Division. Before transitioning to state service, she was an attorney with an insurance defense litigation firm in Reno. She was admitted to the Nevada Bar in 2009 and Florida Bar (inactive) in 2008. She received a Bachelor of Arts, *cum laude*, in Political Science from California State University of Fresno in 2003. In 2008, she graduated from Barry University School of Law, *magna cum laude*, in the top 4% of her class. During law school, she served as the Associate Editor (2006-2007) and the Symposium Editor (2007-2008) for the Barry Law Review, and was a member of the Moot Court Honors Board. She also served as law clerk to the Honorable Melvin T. Brunetti, United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit (2008-2009).

**Michael R. Brunet**

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Michael is an Of Counsel member of Cooper Levenson's casino practice group where he represents a diverse group of clients including Spectrum Gaming Group, PropSwap, and 888 Holdings PLC. He has broad experience in corporate law, commercial transactions, gaming, real estate law, complex commercial bankruptcy, labor and employment, and intellectual property and entertainment law. He represents owners, operators, and investors in industry leading hotels, casinos, nightclubs, restaurants, bars, and lounges. He has been in-house counsel to Station Casinos, Tropicana Entertainment, Affinity Gaming, and Meruelo Group, and served as General Counsel for The Light Group, Palms Casino Resort, Gameco LLC, and Graton Resort & Casino in Sonoma County, California. He has also acted as advisor to Drai's Beachclub & Nightclub, the investors in Lucky Dragon Hotel & Casino (Snow Covered Capital), and to Yaamava' Resort & Casino at San Manuel (Highland, California). Michael received his undergraduate degree in English from the University of

Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), and his law degree from Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C.

**Bruce A. Leslie.**

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Bruce is a sole practitioner, with more than 40 years of experience whose legal practice includes gaming related business law and executive employment and severance agreements. He has represented gaming resorts, and their suppliers, restaurants, nightclubs retail, senior executives, and entertainment venues. He has served as an expert witness and arbitrator. His formal education includes a BSBA from Miami University (Oxford, OH), a Master of Management from Northwestern University (Evanston, IL), a JD from Denver University, and a Master of Law, Taxation from New York University. His recent authorship includes articles on shareholder primacy and the business judgment rule, fiduciary duties & executive compensation, the *alter ego* doctrine, and non-compete covenants, all of which can be accessed at <http://www.bleslielaw.com>. He presently serves on the State Bar Fee Dispute panel and served for 12 years on the SBNV Disciplinary Committee (lawyers). For 13 years he was a member of the Board of Directors of Pinnacle Entertainment, Inc. (a medium cap NYSE casino resort company), and was a member or chairman of the Audit, Compliance, Governance & Nominating, Independent Directors' Litigation, CEO & Board Member Search, Indemnity Trust & Risk Oversight, and Executive Committees. He chaired compliance originated independent director investigations. He was licensed or found suitable by 14 state, tribal and international gaming authorities. He is an honorary citizen of, and was awarded a key to, the City of New Orleans.

**Erica L. Okerberg.**

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Erica is Vice Chair of the Global Gaming Practice of the law firm Greenberg Traurig, LLP and is based in the firm's Las Vegas office. She represents land-based and online casino companies, sports wagering operators, private equity funds and investors, manufacturers, and distributors, as well as other companies

providing services to the gaming industry. Erica also has wide-ranging experience with analyzing and structuring social games, skill-based contests, and sweepstakes. Erica has received multiple awards and accolades over the past several years for her gaming work and community involvement. As a few examples, she has been listed in *Chambers USA* for Gaming & Licensing since 2021, she was named “Lawyer of the Year” for Gaming Law in Las Vegas by *The Best Lawyers in America* in 2023, she received a Patty Becker Pay it Forward Award from Global Gaming Women in 2023, and she was listed in *Vegas Inc.’s* 40 Under 40 List. Erica received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy and French from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. She graduated *magna cum laude* from William S. Boyd School of Law. During law school, she was the Editor-in-Chief of the *UNLV Gaming Law Journal* and a member of the Society of Advocates moot court team.

**Maren Parry.**

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Maren is an Associate attorney at the law firm of Ballard Spahr LLP practicing primarily in the areas of administrative law and government affairs with a focus on land use and gaming. She regularly assists clients in obtaining privileged licenses and government approvals related to gaming and liquor, in addition to other regulated business types. Maren is a 2014 graduate of Leadership Las Vegas and a regular volunteer with the Boys and Girls Club and the Legal Aid of Southern Nevada Ask-A-Lawyer clinics. She is a member of the International Association of Gaming Advisers where she has served as an ambassador for new membership, and is currently a member of the Shannon Bybee Scholarship Award committee. Maren is a graduate of the William S. Boyd School of Law where she obtained her J.D. in 2005, and where she now serves on the Gaming Law Advisory Committee. She received her undergraduate degree from Brigham Young University in 2002. Maren is licensed to practice law in Nevada.

**Jennifer Roberts.**

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Jennifer is General Counsel of Wynn Interactive and WynnBET, a mobile sports betting and casino provider. She briefly served in roles as General Counsel and Vice President of Compliance for GameCo, an arcade-style gambling and esports betting company, and as the Director of Sports Gaming Regulation for the Tennessee Education Lottery Corporation. She was the Associate Director and interim Executive Director of the International Center for Gaming Regulation at University of Nevada Las Vegas, where she created a curriculum for educating regulators on sports betting and casino regulatory issues; established the U.S. Sports Betting Forum; and advised governments, including Japan, on the development of a casino regulatory structure and system.

Jennifer practiced gaming law with her own law firm, Roberts Gaming Law, Ltd.; as a partner at Duane Morris LLP; and for 13 years as a shareholder in the Gaming & Regulatory Department of Lionel Sawyer & Collins, a Nevada-based law firm. Her gaming law practice included representation of clients in all areas of sports betting and gaming law, including licensing, audits and tax matters, enforcement and compliance, and gaming law and regulatory development. She is currently an adjunct professor in gaming law at both the UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law and S.J. Quinney College of Law at the University of Utah.

**Karl F. Rutledge.**

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Karl is the former chair of the Commercial Gaming Group and current managing partner of the firm's Nevada offices. He focuses his practice on promotional marketing and land-based and Internet gaming, with a particular emphasis on eSports, skill-based contests, sweepstakes, official rules, sports betting, privacy policies, and website terms and conditions. Karl is the current chair of the Gaming Law Committee of the American Bar Association Business Law Section as well as an adjunct professor at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration, where he teaches "Gaming Industry Regulation." A widely-published author, Karl recently co-authored a chapter for the Nevada Gaming Law Practice and Procedure Manual published by the State Bar of Nevada. Karl received his J.D. from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, William S. Boyd School of Law in 2006. Before becoming a lawyer, Karl worked as a rodeo clown and bullfighter and now raises bucking bulls and commercial cattle with his family.

**Scott Scherer.**

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Scott is a partner in the law firm of Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP, practicing primarily in the area of regulatory and administrative law with special emphasis on gaming regulatory matters and state and local tax matters. Scott's career highlights include serving as a Supervising Deputy Attorney General in the Gaming Division of the Nevada Attorney General's Office, General Counsel and Chief of Staff to the Governor, two-term Nevada Assemblyman and member of the Nevada Commission on Ethics. At the request of the Mississippi Attorney General, Scott assisted the Mississippi Legislature in drafting the Mississippi Gaming Control Act. He also served four years as a member of the Nevada Gaming Control Board. Scott's corporate experience includes serving as Associate General Counsel and Executive Director of Corporate Development for International Game Technology (IGT) and Acting Managing Director of IGT Africa. A native of Las Vegas, Scott received his undergraduate degree from The Johns Hopkins University (1981) and his law degree from the University of Washington School of Law (1984).

**Robert B. Ziems.**

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Rob currently serves as the Chief Legal Officer of PlayAGS. As such, he oversees all legal and regulatory compliance matters for the company including PlayAGS's Latin American and iGaming business divisions. Prior to joining AGS in February of 2023 Rob served as the President of Aruze Gaming America, Inc. since 2018 ("AGA") and as the Global Chief Legal Officer for the Aruze Gaming Group of companies since 2017. As President of AGA Rob managed the day-to-day operations of AGA; and as Global Chief Legal Officer Rob oversaw all corporate legal matters, regulatory compliance, and human resources worldwide. Rob has served as in-house counsel for gaming industry corporations for most of his professional career handling all manner of legal, regulatory, and transactional matters throughout the world. Rob started his career as a litigator with the firm of Dempsey, Roberts and Smith in 1997. In 1999, Rob started in the gaming industry as Associate General Counsel with Station Casinos, Inc. From there, he served as the General Counsel and Corporate Secretary for M-CAM, Inc., a Virginia-based intellectual property valuation firm. Later, he returned to Las Vegas and the gaming industry as Associate General Counsel with Aristocrat Technologies, Inc. and went on to the role of Director of IP licensing and Associate General Counsel for Mikohn

Gaming, later known as Progressive Gaming International Corporation (“PGIC”). Soon after, Rob became Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary for PGIC. After leaving PGIC Rob started his own law practice and practiced law representing various business clients until joining AGA in 2011. Rob is admitted to practice law in the State of Nevada and the Commonwealth of Virginia (inactive). Rob received his Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from the University of South Florida, his law degree from Drake University School of Law, and his MBA from Indiana University.