

Executive Committee:

*Jeffrey R. Rodefer, Chair
*P. Gregory Giordano, Vice Chair
Erin Barnett | Jaime K. Black
Michael R. Brunet | Bruce A. Leslie
*Erica L. Okerberg | Maren Parry
*Jennifer Roberts | Karl F. Rutledge
*Scott Scherer | Robert B. Ziems

*Co-editors of the *Nevada Gaming Lawyer* magazine

Reply to:

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MINUTES

September 18, 2024

Attendance. After being duly noticed, the following members of the Executive Committee (Committee), constituting a quorum pursuant to Section 4.5 of the Fourth Amended and Restated Bylaws (as approved May 9, 2001, amended October 18, 2006, July 9, 2014 and June 21, 2023), participated in a telephonic only meeting on Wednesday, September 18, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.: Jeffrey R. Rodefer, Chair; P. Gregory Giordano, Vice Chair; Erin Barnett; Michael Brunet; Bruce A. Leslie; Erica L. Okerberg; Maren Parry; Jennifer Roberts; Karl Rutledge; Scott Scherer; and Robert B. Ziems.

ITEMS DISCUSSED.

1. **Ratify Erin Barnett's Nomination.** Subsequent to the May 22, 2024 meeting, the Committee received Erin Barnett's application seeking consideration for appointment to the Committee. By May 31, 2024, the members of the Committee agreed, via email response to the Chair, to forward Erin's name to the State Bar of Nevada for appointment by the Board of Governors to a two-year term (to expire on May 31, 2026) or the balance of the three-term of the open seat (left vacant since June 1, 2023). In turn, the Board of Governors formally appointed Erin to a two-year term at its meeting in June 2024. The Committee, upon a motion made by Maren Parry and duly seconded by Scott Scherer, unanimously nominated Erin to serve on the Committee.
2. **Welcome Erin Barnett and Bruce Leslie.** The Committee welcomed both Erin Barnett and Bruce Leslie as the its newest members.
3. **Review and Approve the Minutes of May 22, 2024.** After reviewing a draft of the minutes, the Committee, upon a motion made by Scott Scherer and duly seconded by Rob Ziems, unanimously approved the Minutes of May 22, 2024.

4. Approve 2025 Budget. The Committee was provided a draft of the 2025 budget for the Gaming Law Section (GLS). Jeff Rodefer advised the Committee that the proposed budget was very conservative and indicated the explanation for the figures is set forth in the footnotes. The Committee, upon a motion made by Greg Giordano and duly seconded by Rob Ziems, unanimously approved the 2025 budget.

5. 2024 Nevada Gaming Lawyer magazine. The members of the Committee indicated they had each received their copy of the 2024 edition of the *Nevada Gaming Lawyer* magazine. The Committee was also provided with a Revenue-Expense Report for the publication that indicated the magazine was 56 pages, 1,300 copies were printed and the advertising revenues were \$7,000 while the publications costs were \$10,504.84 or a publication that was produced at a net loss of \$3,504.84. The Committee was also provided with the publication costs for the years 2019-2023 for a side-by-side comparison. Jeff Rodefer stated that the given the section's limited resources, in order for the magazine to continue as a printed publication it needed to generate closer to \$12,000 in ad revenues. He further indicated that additional expenses could probably be trimmed if the magazine's size and print quantity were further reduced, as well as eliminating the paid photoshoot for the featured person on the cover.

The Committee engaged in a robust discussion of various ideas. Maren Parry suggested that it was probably not practical to increase ad revenues and the magazine should go to a digital only version. The Committee was advised of the logistics in trying to get a digital version to those that currently receive the magazine in the mail, including gaming industry executives and personnel, regulators, Nevada Legislators, members of the judiciary, Nevada's Congressional delegation, etc. Maren also raised concerns about the past issues with the State Bar of Nevada's Account Department and, specifically, its inability to pay the section's vendors in a timely manner. Jeff Rodefer advised that as of mid-August, Marc Mersol, head of the Bar's Accounting Department, is now personally handling all of the financials for the Gaming Law Section (GLS), including check requests and revenue statements. In turn, it appears that the checks are being issued in a timelier manner.

Bruce Leslie inquired about the why the revenues were not sufficient to cover publication costs and whether there would be difficulty in attracting advertisers to a digital only publication. Given the section's limited resources, Erica felt strongly that for the ongoing viability of the GLS that the magazine should be produced in a digital only format. Jennifer Roberts suggested eliminating the magazine for 2025 and potentially reviving it some format for 2026 if permitted by the section's resources. Karl Rutledge echoed the need to move to a digital only format and inquired about fundraising to assist with the section's budgetary constraints. He was further very concern that GLS had terminated its philanthropic endeavors to help preserve funding for the magazine and conference. He also stated that it was difficult to sell advertising space, especially to his law firm, for a publication that is solely Nevada based. The Committee was reminded of the charitable golf tournament that it hosted from 2001-2011 that raised scholarship money for the UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law. The event largely sold itself since it benefited a charitable cause in raising scholarship funds. It was complete unknown what the response would be to an event that simply raised money to help fund GLS activities. As he has done previously, Jeff stated his support for a printed publication provided there

was sufficient advertising revenues to make it a breakeven. He further suggested that if he was provided with contacts for potential advertisers, he would reach out to them. Scott Scherer suggested possibly having the GLS being responsible for the one month each year that the *Nevada Lawyer* is dedicated to gaming and, in exchange, the State Bar could provide the section with extra printed copies for distribution.

Maren stated she would put together a written proposal on next steps for the magazine and circulate it to the Committee for comment.

6. 2024 Gaming Law Conference. The Committee was provided with a copy of the ad/agenda for the *2024 Gaming Law Conference*. Jeff Rodefer advised that the State Bar's CLE Department had indicated just prior to the meeting that there were currently 65 individuals registered for the conference. This would project to less than the 164 attendees at last year's event. Upon questioning, he was uncertain what, if any, income the conference would produce. The Committee was reminded that since the start of the COVID pandemic in 2020, the conference attendance has dramatically decreased. Pre-pandemic attendance was in the range of 300-350 and attendance was the driving revenue factor for the conference, rather than the two or three sponsorships each year. After two years of Zoom formats, the conference returned to a live in-person event in 2022 and lost money for the first time resulting in a deficiency of \$7,076.12 with 180 attendees. The 2023 event drew 164 attendees and made a minimal net profit of \$1,778.94, but registration fees had been raised for the first time by \$50/person. Given that the conference moved to the Palms Casino Resort with lower costs, Jeff was unable to forecast if the event would turn a profit, breakeven or lose money. Scott Scherer requested that the current ad for the conference be resent to the Committee. He felt that he and others on the Committee could help advertise the event through social media to help increase registrations. Jeff resent the ad during the meeting.

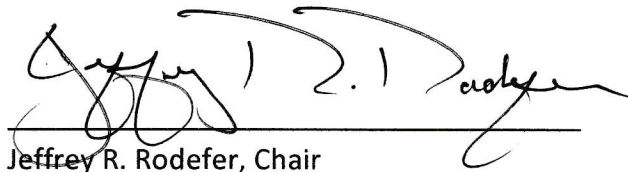
Greg Giordano indicated that many of the national gaming conferences, such as the International Association of Gaming Advisors have various levels of sponsorships. Erica and Maren felt strongly that the GLS would be better served in trying to focus on sponsors for the conference, rather than advertisers for the magazine.

Scott inquired about turning the *Gaming Law Conference* into a two-day event with the second day being dedicated to anti-money laundering or reviving the GLS's *Bank Secrecy Act Conference* as the additional day. Jeff indicated that the BSA Conference was successful since it was able to draw, among others, speakers from FinCEN, IRS-Criminal and the U.S. Department of Justice which had broad appeal outside of Nevada. Moreover, the American Gaming Association and UNLV's International Gaming Institute helped to provide national marketing exposure for the event that ran from 2014-2016 drawing upwards of 440 attendees annually from as many as 30 U.S. jurisdictions and a couple of foreign countries. Such a conference would be wholly dependent upon have speakers from federal agencies. Scott requested that the Committee reconvene in late October or early November.

7. Other Items of Interest/New Business. The Committee was asked if anyone wanted to raise an item of interest or new business. Jeff Rodefer stated that the bylaws that were amended in 2023, at the request of the Board of Governors, required free membership for law students to join the GLS. To date, he has not received any interest from the Boyd School of Law or its students in joining. He further advised; the Committee will need to determine what role the students would serve if someone expressed an interest in joining the GLS. Scott Scherer requested that the item be placed on the next agenda for discussion.
8. Adjourn. Upon a motion made by Scott Scherer and duly seconded by Maren Parry, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.

DATED 22nd day of October 2024.

State Bar of Nevada
Gaming Law Section



Jeffrey R. Rodefer, Chair