

SPECIAL ISSUE: A COLLECTION OF ORAL HISTORIES FROM NEVADA GAMING FIGURES

EDITOR'S NOTE

Eric D. Walther,
Editor-in-Chief

Our staff is thrilled to publish this special issue of the *UNLV Gaming Law Journal* featuring oral histories from some of Nevada's most influential gaming figures. The purpose of this issue is to capture the history of Nevada gaming through the personal stories of the people who helped shape the industry into what it is today. Each oral history provides a unique perspective on Nevada gaming given the interviewees' diverse roles in the industry and their different paths in life.¹ This collection gives readers a never-before-seen look at the history of Nevada gaming.

The following oral histories were captured by oral historian Claytee White. Ms. White currently serves as director of the Oral History Research Center at UNLV where she has conducted over 350 oral history interviews. For this issue, Ms. White met with each gaming figure in his home or office and conducted recorded interviews, focusing the conversation on gaming.

The staff of the *UNLV Gaming Law Journal* then edited the interview transcripts to improve clarity and readability while taking special care to preserve the original message of each gaming figure.² Footnotes were added to provide context and to further inform readers on people, places, and events discussed in each oral history. Moreover, major dates and events discussed were authenticated by our staff. It is important to note, however, that these are the *personal* histories of each gaming figure, told as they remember them. As such, the *UNLV Gaming Law Journal* cannot guarantee that each oral history is completely free from the fallacy of human memory. The unedited transcripts are in the possession of the *UNLV Gaming Law Journal* and are available for review upon request.

In closing, I would like to thank several people whose hard work and generosity helped make this special issue possible. Thank you to William S. Boyd, Burton Cohen, and Peter Bernhard, for graciously agreeing to share their personal stories with us. These gentlemen are a perfect illustration of the Nevada gaming industry's commitment to serving the community. Thank you to Professor Jennifer Roberts for authoring an excellent forward for this issue. In addition to being a professor of law, Professor Roberts is one of the most

¹ The following collection contains oral histories from a casino owner (William S. Boyd), a corporate board member (Burton Cohen), and a gaming regulator (Peter Bernhard).

² Some questions and answers that were tangential to the theme of gaming were also deleted.

distinguished gaming attorneys in the country, and we are privileged to have her support.

Thank you to oral historian Claytee White for kindly donating her time and talent towards collecting these oral histories. Thank you to Professor Rachel J. Anderson, Professor Lori D. Johnson, and former *Editor-in-Chief* Erica Okerberg for serving as early advisors and for helping get this project off the ground. Thank you to our faculty advisors – Dean Ngai Pindell, Professor Nancy B. Rapoport, Professor Rachel J. Anderson, and renowned gaming attorney Anthony Cabot – for their guidance and support throughout the editing of this special issue. Thank you to Professor Jeanne Price and the staff of the Wiener-Rogers Law Library for graciously contributing library funds and resources towards transcribing these recorded oral history interviews. Thank you to Dean Daniel W. Hamilton, Dean of the William S. Boyd School of Law. Dean Hamilton’s support and enthusiasm for our Journal is greatly appreciated and will continue to be instrumental to our success.

Finally, a special thanks to the editors and staff of the *UNLV Gaming Law Journal*. They did a phenomenal job editing these oral histories, and we would not have been able to publish this issue without their hard work.

Now, please enjoy this special *oral histories* issue of the *UNLV Gaming Law Journal*.