

UNLV GAMING LAW JOURNAL

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Walter T. Champion, J.D.

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Letter from Professor Anthony Cabot

Ten years ago, on the tenth anniversary of the founding of the UNLV Boyd School of Law, then Dean John Valery White lead an effort to create the “UNLV Gaming Law Journal.” The Journal began as the only scholarly peer-reviewed publication dedicated to gaming law produced by an academic institution. The Journal was a natural extension of the UNLV Boyd School of Law’s gaming law class inaugurated by the late Shannon Bybee, who had a distinguished career as a gaming regulator and gaming industry executive. As then Dean John Valery White noted, “The Journal is an important part of the Law School’s mission to serve our community while providing an exceptional education to our students. The Journal will certainly do both. Gaming has been an important part of the Nevada economy for over 75 years, and it is an increasingly important economic activity throughout the United States and around the world.”

Brandon Johansson, the first student Editor-in-Chief of the new Journal and then Associate Dean Steve Johnson worked with the International Masters of Gaming Law (IMGL), under the leadership of then-president Anthony Coles, to secure the industry and financial support to launch the Journal. The IMGL was a perfect partner for the Journal. From a humble beginning in 2002, the IMGL has grown to 350 members from all over the world and is committed to the promotion of gaming law as a legal discipline and gaming law education. The IMGL’s support for the Journal was consistent with the IMGL’s goal to have gaming law recognized as a legal discipline and as a subject worthy of study at law schools.

The Journal’s mission is to create legal scholarship dedicated to analyzing the legal and policy implications of gaming case law, legislation, administrative regulations, and important gaming legal events on a global basis. This was evident from the first issue published in Spring 2010, which was well received and featured articles by IMGL members Heidi Staudenmaier, Marita Carnelly, Emir Aly Crowne-Mohammed, and Bill Thompson and covered issues in three continents. Subsequently, the Journal has made an impact on the advancement of gaming law. Besides being cited by courts and used by legislators and regulators, the Journal has hundreds of downloads each week and is broadly distributed to law libraries, industry members, and digital law services.

In addition to publishing over 100 scholarly articles, the Journal has become a historian of the gaming industry and gaming law leaders by publishing the oral histories of industry giants like Bill Boyd, Jack Binion, Vic Salerno, Burt Cohen, Kenny Epstein, Jan Jones Blackhurst, Jimmy Vaccaro,

and Virginia McDowell; influential gaming attorneys such as Pete Bernhard, Thomas Auriemma, A.J. “Bud” Hicks, and Frank Schreck; and pioneers in their field such as Carol OHare and Paul Steelman.

UNLV Boyd Law students are the reason for the Journal’s impressive contributions to the growing body of gaming law. Over 120 students have served as volunteer staff members including an Editor-in-Chief, a Managing Editor, a Lead Articles Editor, Articles and Notes Editors, a Business Manager, senior staff members, and junior staff members. The Editors-in-Chief deserve special recognition for their tireless work in assuring that two quality issues have been produced every year since its inaugural issue. These include Brandon Johansson (2009–2010), Kirk Homeyer (2010–2011), Chandeni Gill (2011–2012), Erica Okerberg (2012–2013), Eric Walther (2013–2014), Kerry Kleiman (2014–2015), Stephanie Getler (2015–2016), Adam Ellis (2016–2017), Michael Linton (2017–2018), Ariana Reed (2018–2019), and Jerrell Berrios (2019–2020).

Because of these efforts, the Journal has been the bedrock of the continued growth and reputation of the gaming law program at UNLV Boyd School of Law. Over the past decade, the program grew to ten courses in gaming and resort law including Introduction to Gaming Law, Gaming Policy and Comparative Law, Gaming Equipment Law, Technology, Innovation & Federal Gaming Law, Indian Gaming Law, Sports Wagering Law and Regulation, Fundamentals of Casino Operations, Gaming Law Practice Skills, and Gaming Legislation taught by Jennifer Roberts, Mark Lerner, Greg Gemignani, Becky Harris, and Drake Law Professor Keith Miller. In the summer of 2020, UNLV Boyd, under the supervision of Professor Ngai Pindell, will offer the first study abroad program in gaming law with visits to Tokyo, Macau, and Singapore.

Capitalizing on the comprehensive program in gaming law, under Dean Dan Hamilton’s leadership, UNLV Boyd launched the only program of its kind offering an LL.M. in Gaming Law and Regulation, covering topics in lottery rules, gaming regulation, sports betting, licensing, employment relations, zoning, and other areas. Being in the international capital of gaming, LL.M. students gain access to globally renowned gaming professionals and regulators, observe and learn from cutting-edge debates and decision making, and make lasting professional connections.

We look forward to the Journal’s continued contributions and its student leadership to UNLV Boyd School of Law’s growth, its gaming program and to gaming law studies and education globally.