

# FOREWORD

By Patricia Becker

Welcome to the 2018 edition of the *Nevada Gaming Lawyer* magazine. I appreciate the invitation to write the Foreword for this edition and have my picture taken with the current GCB Chair, Becky Harris, for the cover.



As Becky and I visited earlier this summer at the photo shoot, her response to one question brought back so many memories and cemented my interpretation of events 35 years ago. Becky is an extremely accomplished person, a lawyer with over 18 years experience, earning a recent LLM in Gaming Law and Regulation, and an elected State Senator. When I queried whether any of her prior experience had prepared her for the visibility of the appointment, as Chair to the GCB, without hesitation she responded “NO.”

We immediately bonded in the knowledge of a joint experience that truly cannot be described. Prior to my appointment, I had been a Deputy Attorney General and Chief Deputy AG for the Gaming Control Board and Commission for four years. I had argued three prominent gaming cases before the Nevada Supreme Court. One case against Oscar Goodman concerning the enrollment of Anthony Spilotro in the Blackbook, which had its highlights televised throughout the State.

None of this prepared me for the onslaught of press coverage of my appointment. I went from a relatively unknown, but I thought competent attorney, with eight years experience to the most discussed person in Nevada. It was both thrilling and scary since the discussion usually centered on being female. In fairness to the press and the Industry, it was a different era.

As I reviewed the prior *Nevada Gaming Lawyer* magazines, I noted that a female had not written the Foreword before nor been on the cover. This really did not surprise me; however, it did reinforce my theory that 35 years between female appointees to the Board is too long.

First, all the male Board members between Becky and me have been competent and all deserved to be appointed. Most have gone on to distinguished careers in gaming. I too have had the benefit of the imprimatur of being a Nevada Gaming Control Board Member; however, perhaps the industry

would have evolved to a different place and at a different pace if a few more women had been given the opportunity Becky and I have been given.

In today's magazine numerous articles are written or co-written by women. One could argue that the legal profession has kept current with the times with half of law school graduates now women, but historically 57% of undergraduate degrees are conferred upon women. While I believe in statistics and facts, I understand they don't always tell the full story.



The gaming industry lags in upward mobility and career opportunities for women. Perhaps that is why Becky and I became so visible upon our appointments. While women comprise over half of the employees in the industry, they certainly do not comprise half of the managers, directors, executives or as so recently made obvious, Boards of Directors.

There are some notable exceptions. Since I am the eternal optimist, I would like to give credit to Jim Murren, CEO MGM Resorts International, for both his honest appraisal of past practice regarding women and changing a culture. In 2000, the company did not have any female Presidents, while today one-third of the company's Presidents are female. Since MGM operates the most casinos on the Las Vegas Strip this is a visible change that can make a difference. And, Nevada Restaurant Services, through its, Dotty's brand, operates the most off Strip casinos with a female CEO, Paula Graziano, and over half of its management female.

My comments are focused on the changing times. The make-up (no pun intended) of our clients is changing, as is the composition of the regulatory body. In April, Governor Sandoval appointed Sandra Douglas Morgan as his second female appointment to the Nevada Gaming Commission.

Please enjoy the articles, ranging from money laundering, marijuana and gaming licensing, Nevada regulations that discriminate against Nevada-based companies, the impact of the re-interpretation of the wire act, casino security changes, the impact of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision on sports wagering, the new sexual harassment regulations, cryptocurrencies and federal regulation, the regulated marijuana industry and licensed gaming, the importance of AML training, and an interview with GCB Chair Becky Harris.



Patricia Becker has over 40 years experience in the gaming industry and currently operates a gaming consulting firm that specializes in compliance and regulatory issues. She spent six years as a Senior Vice President with Aladdin Gaming and nine years with Harrah's culminating with the position of Senior Vice President and General Counsel. In 2014, Ms. Becker was honored for her career in gaming by induction to the Gaming Hall of Fame.

She currently serves on the compliance committee of Scientific Games, Inc., Tropicana Entertainment, Inc., and Nevada Restaurant Services, Inc. She has served as a Board Member on numerous public companies, including Cash Systems Inc., Fitzgerald's Gaming Corporation, and Powerhouse Technologies. She served as Executive Director and *Boyd Distinguished Professor* at the UNLV International Gaming Institute. In addition, Patty was Chief of Staff to Nevada Governor Bob Miller from 1993 to 1995 with involvement in policy development, budget administration, and program direction. She also holds the distinction of being the first woman to serve on the Nevada Gaming Control Board and is licensed to practice law in Nevada, California, and Colorado.



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