

THE GLS Year in Review

Welcome to the 2018 edition of the *Nevada Gaming Lawyer*.

By Jeff Rodefer

The Gaming Law Section (GLS) has undergone some relatively moderate change this past year with Jennifer Carleton deciding to not seek reappointment to the Executive Committee after two terms. In Jennifer's place, the Board of Governors appointed longtime gaming lawyer, Karl F. Rutledge to the Committee in June.

As we all know, this has been a historic year, especially in our regulatory system. In January, Governor Brian Sandoval appointed Becky Harris as the first female to Chair the Nevada Gaming Control Board. We were excited that Chair Harris graciously agreed to participate in this year's publication, along with Patty Becker, the first female to ever serve on the Board. In turn, you will note contributions from both in this issue, along with many other prominent female gaming lawyers and industry executives.

This year, I decided to depart from the usual approach of providing statistics from the past year (that many of you probably find boring anyway—if you are one of the few who like stats, they are set forth in the margins). During my time on the Executive Committee, the GLS has always strived to be as inclusive as possible. The bylaws were amended in 2014 to increase the size of the Executive Committee from 10 to 12 to welcome Maren Parry and Jennifer Roberts. Since then, Jaime Black and Erica Okerberg have joined the Executive Committee. This being its 12th year, the *Nevada Gaming Lawyer* took a more proactive role in seeking to recognize the talent and expertise of a few of the numerous outstanding female gaming lawyers in Nevada, a next generation gaming lawyer, as well as certain well-respected industry leaders including regulatory and labor law practitioners. It was an honor that Kate Lowenhar-Fisher, Jennifer Gaynor, Christine Lomas, Mindy Letourneau, Sara Slane, Cassie Stratford, Theresa Guerra, Allison Kheel and Rebecca Umhofer, along with Patty Becker, Jaime Black, Erica Okerberg, Maren Parry, and Jennifer Roberts, all accepted invitations to author articles. Each is very accomplished in her own right.

2017-2018 GLS Events & Activities

EVENTS

2017 Gaming Law Conference (November 3rd at the Red Rock Casino Resort) – drew one of its largest crowds in recent years with more than 230 registered attendees.



Mindy Letourneau, Founder & CEO, Casino Essentials
Jim Dowling, Managing Director, Dowling Advisory Group
Greg Lisa, Partner, Hogan Lovells LLP



Dr. Bo Bernhard, Executive Director,
International Gaming Institute-UNLV



Keynote Lunch Speaker -
Paul Camacho, VP of AML
Compliance, Station Casinos LLC



Scott Scherer, Partner, Holland & Hart LLP
Dr. Tony Alamo, M.D., Chairman, Nevada Gaming Commission
A.G. Burnett, Chairman, Nevada Gaming Control Board

2017-2018 GLS Events & Activities

EVENTS

11th Annual Las Vegas Anti-Money Laundering Conference (August 13th-16th at The Cosmopolitan) - Gaming Law Section was the Platinum Sponsor for the second consecutive year.

2018 Gaming Law Conference (November 16th at the Red Rock Casino Resort) - see the full-page ad inside the back cover.

GLS PRO BONO GAMING EMPLOYEE REGISTRATION PROGRAM

The following lawyers took pro bono cases in the past 12 months, with some assistance from students in the William S. Boyd School of Law's J.D. or LL.M. in Gaming Law and Regulation programs:

- * Charles Deskins
- * Kathleen Gallagher
Jennifer Gaynor
- * Michael Linton
Jennifer Roberts
Jeff Rodefer
Scott Scherer
- * Jeevitha Seetharaman
- * Rahul Sodhi

*Boyd Law student

Although this edition recognizes many leading females in the gaming industry—to me, the most important and influential female I have ever known was not a gaming lawyer or even a lawyer. She did not gamble. Yet no other person had a greater impact on my career and life. Everything that I am is a result of her guidance. I am referring, of course, to my mother, Joanne, who passed in June of this year. Maybe after 18 years of being the chair of the GLS, you will indulge me for a second or two to tell you about my mom.



She was born in Pendleton, Oregon, and moved to the Portland area during WWII, where her father was charged with the



responsibility of overseeing the movement of the troop trains for the Union Pacific railroad. She later attended Gresham Union High School in Oregon, where she played clarinet in the band. Following her high school graduation in 1952, she entered the Multnomah Business College, where she earned her degree and became a member of the faculty teaching classes in typing and shorthand. In 1955, she joined the FBI's Portland office as a legal secretary. During her tenure with the FBI, she provided administrative support to many, including then U.S. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy when he was in town. As mom indicated, Attorney General Kennedy liked to multi-task and would dictate letters

and memos in between his meetings. In turn, he always sought out mom for her ability to quickly take his dictation in shorthand, transcribe the notes into a typed document, and have it ready for his signature. Upon leaving the FBI in 1962, mom moved to Santa Fe and then to Hobbs, New Mexico, thereafter, to Fayetteville, North Carolina, and briefly to Las Vegas and onto Reno, Nevada, in July 1967 and eventually settling in Carson City in January 1970.

Having grown up in Oregon, mom was not fully prepared for the reality of the early/mid 1960s in North Carolina, which included, unfortunately, cross-burnings in our neighborhood. Without hesitation, mom responded by opening her home to those affected to spend the night.

In Northern Nevada, mom became active in the local community through, among other charitable endeavors, her involvement in Little League, Babe Ruth, and serving as the President of Carson City Pop Warner, as well as Camp Fire Girls and Carson High School's Rodeo Team. Following the loss of the family home to fire on December 23, 1971, mom took it upon herself to walk the neighborhoods seeking signatures for the construction of Fire Stations 2 and 3 to more adequately cover the northern and southern parts of Carson City and the former Ormsby County area. Her actions created more timely responses for emergency personnel. I still vividly remember being eight standing in knee-deep snow holding onto my three-year-old sister and the family dog wondering when the fire department would show as the house and Christmas decorations were engulfed. Mom not only saved our lives that night, but her activism saved the lives of many in

the years to come. Her efforts did not go unnoticed, with a few wanting her to think about public office. Although significantly less partisan then, public office was not something that appealed to her.



Her interests largely centered on family. Mom was always the eternal optimist. Even as she suffered with Parkinson's, she handled her daily struggles (and there were many) with grace. She never complained about her situation. In turn, she could find joy in almost every aspect of her life from her flower garden, to cooking, to spending time with family and dear friends, to meeting new people, to rooting for the Nevada Wolf Pack and attending games with me when she could, to watching sports, to traveling around the surrounding area, to indulging her sweet tooth, but her greatest joy, as she liked to say, was being a mom. Her love, devotion, and sacrifice for the family was unwavering. She did so, while essentially filling both parental roles—taking my sister and I to sporting events, helping with homework, being involved in school activities, driving a truck pulling two horses hundreds of miles to a weekend high school rodeo event for my sister,

befriending everyone she met, and struggling financially to make ends meet. She was always present with a kind word, a welcoming smile, or a simple “I love you.” Over my life, I have had several friends say, “I want your mom to adopt me.” She had that affect on people. Mom was a blessing to her family and those who were fortunate to meet her. She was the strongest person I have ever known. Even during her last week, I never left her side. As difficult as it was, I was amazed at her ability to handle the situation—always more concerned about me and the hospital staff, than herself.

It seemed only appropriate, especially in this issue that celebrates some of the phenomenal female attorneys and executives in the gaming industry, to talk about my mom. Thank you for allowing me to share a little about the most important female and person that I was blessed to have in my life. My mom was amazing. The world was a better place because of her. She will be dearly missed.



Jeff Rodefer is Of Counsel to the law firm of Holland & Hart in Carson City and Las Vegas. He has been the Chairman of the State Bar of Nevada's Gaming Law Section since 2000. He also serves as an Emeritus Trustee for the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation and as a member of the William S. Boyd School of Law's Gaming Law Advisory Board.

2017-2018 GLS Events & Activities

SCHOLARSHIPS

\$10,000 in scholarships for the LL.M program in Gaming Law and Regulation at the William S. Boyd School of Law, UNLV – see Sarah Gonzales's article in this issue on p. 92.

SPONSORSHIPS

\$10,000 co-sponsor of the Gaming Law Journal at UNLV

\$5,000 sponsor of the Robert D. Faiss Lecture Series

\$2,500 sponsor of the Frank A. Schreck Gaming Moot Court Competition

\$5,000 sponsor of the Global Gaming Women's "Kick Up Your Heels" event

\$2,000 silver hole sponsor for the 5th Annual UNLV Law Alumni Chapter Golf Tournament

\$1,000 sponsor of the National High School Mock Trial Competition - Reno (May 11-12, 2018)