By Jeff Rodefer

I hope you enjoy reading your copy of the 2010 Nevada Gaming Lawyer. This is the fourth year for the magazine after two years of the bi-annual, GLS Newsletter. The change was driven to provide you with a more substantive publication and to reduce the twice yearly costs associated with the prior publication that needed to be offset, in part, by the generosity of our advertisers. I hope you find this year’s edition informative and beneficial to your practice.

As a little bit of historical background, in 2000, the Board of Governors revived the Gaming Law Section (GLS) after several years of inactivity. Given that many of you faithfully continued to pay your annual dues during this down period, the Board of Governors was asked to cover the costs for a welcome back event for all who were members of the GLS in 1999 and 2000. The Board of Governors graciously agreed to this request and the GLS held a luncheon at Paris-Las Vegas Hotel & Casino on August 4, 2000, with, then United States Senator, Richard Bryan giving a great “Congressional Update on Gaming.” This free lunch and one hour of CLE, drew, as expected, a sellout.

From Senator Bryan’s energizing address, the GLS Executive Committee has tried different events over the past decade, but, in the end, settled on three annual events that have drawn the greatest interest and support from
you, the members. The Annual Law Scholarship Golf Tournament in May, the Nevada Gaming Lawyer in September and the Gaming Law Conference each November are specifically focused at meeting the section’s stated purpose of enhancing the knowledge of the Bar in this unique area of gaming law.

The 2010 Gaming Law Conference, to be held on November 5th (registration form inside the back cover, as well as online at www.nvbar.org), has seen nearly 1,000 attend this all day CLE over the past eight years. This year’s conference, which will be held at the International Gaming Institute’s Stan Fulton Building on the campus of UNLV, brings together regulators and leading attorneys from across the country to speak on subjects that will include, among others, gaming enforcement issues, bankruptcies and Internet gaming and regulation. This is a rare opportunity for you to ask questions, especially of regulators outside the normal regulatory setting. This year’s seminar will also provide two hours of ethics presented by Larry Cohen through the entertainment of his “Ethical Day at the Movies.” The keynote luncheon speaker will be well known journalist, Jon Ralston of the Las Vegas Sun and host of the television program Face to Face. Jon will look at the recent November elections and give his experienced insight and thought-provoking views on where he believes these results will impact the gaming industry, the state and our country.

The 10th Annual Law Scholarship Golf Tournament held on May 7th raised $36,000 for the “Gaming Law Section Scholarship” at the William S. Boyd School of Law at UNLV. In its ten-year run, the tournament has generated more than $278,000 in scholarship money, which, in turn, has helped 55 future Nevada lawyers meet their law school goals. The tournament has drawn more than 1,300 golfers, including regulators, elected officials, members of the judiciary, private and government lawyers, in-house counsel, accountants, gaming and non-gaming executives, including the faculty, staff and students of the Boyd School of Law. Next year’s tournament is scheduled for Friday, May 6, 2011 at the historic Las Vegas National Golf Club. Contrary to the beliefs of some, most of the golfers in the tournament are at the “C” and “D” skill level. Participants simply enjoy getting out of the office for the afternoon to network and help a good cause. Regardless of your level of play, even if you only play once or twice a year like me, I hope you will join us next year for the pure fun a worthwhile event. Look for notices in your February and March issues of the Nevada Lawyer.

In closing, I want to encourage you to participate in the GLS’ events, which we endeavor to provide special rates for our members. To this end, I along with my colleagues on the Executive Committee would like to hear from you. Your opinion matters as we try keep the GLS relevant and topical. If you have not had a chance to complete the online GLS Survey, you may do so at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GTYGNC2.