



**By Dennis K. Neilander, Chairman  
Nevada State Gaming Control  
Board**

Welcome to this edition of the *Nevada Gaming Lawyer*. This year celebrates two important milestones in the rich history of Nevada and Gaming. First, 2008 marks the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of legalized gaming in the State. Second, the year 2008 is the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of the State Bar of Nevada. Gaming and the Law have been intertwined throughout the growth of the State. Most practitioners are required to consider gaming law at some time in their practice even if gaming is not part of their core practice. Gaming is such an important part of the fabric that makes up the state and Nevadans are touched by gaming in some way on a regular basis. Who could have imagined what would grow out of Winnemucca Assemblyman Phil Tobin's legislation that legalized gaming in 1931. I often wonder what Phil and his colleagues would say if they could see the Las Vegas Strip today.

In 1931 Nevada's economy was struggling following the crash of the stock market and Nevadans were in the throes of the Great Depression. Unfortunately, our State economy is again struggling today. As lawyers in the Government and private sector we are fortunate that the Nevada Gaming Control Act was

designed in 1959 to anticipate the ups and downs of the economy and the growth of the State. Through the actions of numerous Governors, Legislators, Gaming Attorneys and Regulators, the Act has been constantly updated and modernized in an attempt to accommodate the growth of gaming while maintaining the strict regulation of gaming. This is a delicate balance and becomes even more delicate during difficult financial times.

Nevada has a history of creativity and resolve during these times. I believe this is due to the unique entrepreneurial spirit of those in the business community whom you represent. In the past year there has been the introduction of private equity funds, some merger and acquisition activity and going private transactions. Mobile gaming and server based gaming are a few examples of the rapid growth in technology. As we look forward, you are being asked by your clients to advise them on new and innovative types of business structures, financings, and other operational advancements. We are fortunate as gaming attorneys to be involved in such a dynamic, challenging, and intellectually stimulating area of the law. As I deal with regulators from around the world, Nevada's system of gaming regulation is universally held in the highest regard. This is due in large part to the diligent and effective efforts of gaming counsel. Keep up the good work and I hope you enjoy this issue of the *Nevada Gaming Lawyer*. [NGL](#)