



The First Gaming Lawyer: A Tribute to Bob Faiss

By Jennifer Roberts

In trying to put together words to describe Bob, so many come to mind that I am just plain overwhelmed. I feel that I could author a War & Peace-sized novel in relaying the importance of Bob to the gaming industry, Nevada as a state, and any individual who has ever practiced gaming law or took a gaming law class. One thing is certain – any words used to talk about Bob would be synonymous with nice, honest, industrious, humble, and brilliant. He was a remarkable gentleman.

Many of you reading this already know that Bob was the gaming law “guru” and the first true gaming attorney. His accomplishments could fill a set of encyclopedias and I would encourage anyone who has not read Bob’s oral history, *Gaming Regulation and Gaming Law in Nevada*, to do so. Bob was so dedicated to practice that he would have rather been in the office than on vacation. That astonished me! But I noticed how committed he was to clients when he would map out every detail of a case and thoughtfully prepare comments before any presentation. He focused on team work and always made sure there was another attorney to help on every matter so that other attorney could learn about gaming law procedures and processes.

Bob also cherished being able to teach gaming law to students at the UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law. He loved introducing his classes to the legislative process by having students testify before the state assembly and senate on a student-led bill. He would then proudly announce that the law student efforts resulted in legislation that had been signed into law during every session since his program started. He would also invite his students to testify during public comment before the Nevada State Gaming Control Board and Nevada Gaming Commission and he brought in guest lecturers from the highest ranks of the gaming industry. His tremendous mentorship became even more evident when one of his former students traveled from Asia to attend the recent Bob Faiss lecture at the UNLV law school.

Bob is truly legendary. What is most amazing is that despite the countless accolades he received, the extensive praise from clients and fellow attorneys, and the continued recognition on being the world’s most prominent gaming attorney, Bob was never arrogant. He would rather promote the people around him than take any credit for all of his accomplishments.

Although I only knew Bob for 11 years, I feel lucky to have had him as a mentor, teacher, and friend for that brief period. Apparently, I’m not alone. When I reached out to leaders in the Nevada gaming industry and asked if there was interest in contributing comments, I received an immediate and enthusiastic response. Not only were those individuals ready to contribute, they felt honored to be able to provide comment. I willingly acknowledge that there were many people who would have bent over backwards to say a few words about Bob and I apologize to those I was unable to reach or approach.

Here are some comments that shed light on Bob's impact on the Nevada gaming industry.

"I had the pleasure of working with Bob for 35 years. Early in my career as a regulator, we were adversaries on numerous cases. Even in this capacity, he was always concerned for my professional growth. His kindness is legendary; however, I will always be grateful of his acceptance and guidance of a young female attorney awkwardly trying to survive in a male dominated industry."

- *Patricia Becker, President of Patricia Becker & Associates*

"Of Bob's many skills as a lawyer, he was best at keeping quiet when things were going his way. And, when he sensed the need, he would speak up with great precision. Over time, I learned that when his eyes were twinkling, he recognized that he might be stretching a regulatory concept a little too far. But when his eyes were intense and focused, I knew that he was speaking both for the interests of his client and the compatible interests of the State. We miss him."

- *Peter C. Bernhard, Attorney at Kaempfer Crowell and former Chairman of the Nevada Gaming Commission*

"Bob was legendary for his meticulous attention to detail and his thoughtful presentations. He also attempted to anticipate any questions he might be required to answer. When he presented complex matters to the Nevada Gaming Commission he would bring with him specialists from his firm who could answer questions about every aspect of the matter he was presenting."

- *Paul Bible, Partner at Lewis Roca Rothgerber*

"In the late 80s while I was a junior partner at my first law firm, I drew the unenviable role of representing a client adverse to Bob Faiss's financial institution client that was trying to foreclose on our client's ownership interests in certain Las Vegas hotel-casinos. The adversarial matter lasted for over a year and required multiple meetings and hearings in front of the Nevada regulators. While I was substantially outgunned and outclassed by Bob Faiss representing the other side, I will never forget the kindness, courtesy and professionalism that Bob extend to me as a much younger and much less experienced gaming lawyer—he treated me that way when I was brand new and throughout my career."

- *Michael J. Bonner, Managing Shareholder at Greenberg Traurig, LLP*

"Bob Faiss enjoyed a remarkable career of public service -- first as Governor Grant Sawyer's Executive Assistant and later as a member of President Lyndon Johnson's White House staff.

As a lawyer he created and set the standard for a new legal specialty -- 'Gaming Law.'" For more than four decades, he represented many of the largest gaming companies in the U.S.

and around the world. He played a major role in shaping the regulatory structure by which that industry is regulated."

- *Richard H. Bryan, Attorney at Lionel Sawyer & Collins and former U.S. Senator and Nevada State Governor*

"We had work in Dubai and Bob arrived there early in the day, while my flight didn't land until 2 or 3 am. When my crew and I got to the hotel lobby, Bob was there waiting for us. He had stayed up that whole time waiting for us to arrive; when we met, he asked whether I'd like to sit down with him and meet about the upcoming day, and the meetings we had planned. I hardly had the heart to tell him I was too tired, so I mustered whatever strength I could to sit and chat with him. That's who he was: Always dedicated, hard working, and devoted to his client and to ensuring the Board and it's staff had whatever was necessary.....even at 3 am in Dubai."

- *A.G. Burnett, Chairman of the Nevada State Gaming Control Board*

"The practice of gaming law without Bob Faiss is difficult to imagine. He helped Governor Sawyer model the first comprehensive gaming regulatory system in the world and played an integral part in virtually every major regulatory development in the past 50 years. Knowing Bob's love of the sport, his passing can only be compared to baseball without Babe Ruth."

- *Anthony Cabot, Partner at Lewis Roca Rothgerber*

"Paul and I are deeply saddened by the passing of Bob Faiss, a pioneer of gaming and regulatory law. Bob was a mentor and good friend. Although quiet and humble by nature, he had a keen sense of politics and compassion for helping others. He dedicated his life to improving Nevada. Bob's legacy will go down in history as being not only one of the best attorneys in Nevada but one of the most influential lawyers in America. This distinguished titan will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Linda, and children during this difficult time."

- *Catherine Cortez Masto, Attorney General for the State of Nevada*

"A true gentleman. Legal powerhouse. Mr. Integrity. Role model. Mentor. Leader. Professional. All apply to the man that I, like so many others, have been proud to think of as a real friend. It's tough to try to rank order the qualities, since Bob was so outstanding in so many ways.

Bob played a key role in developing the gaming industry from its shady origins to its present stature in Nevada and far beyond. He also played a key role in the development of innumerable careers in the gaming industry, the regulation of the gaming industry, and in the practice of law.

Bob made us all better at what we do and elevated us to being better people. We will miss him and continue to appreciate the time we shared with him.”

- *Bill Curran, Managing Partner
at Ballard Spahr*

“Few people ever accomplish enough in their lives to truly be thought of as legendary. Bob Faiss did so on many levels. He was a skilled attorney, a pioneer in Nevada gaming regulation and a true gentleman.”

- *Pete Ernaut, President and Principal
of Government & Public Affairs
at R & R Partners*

“To me, Bob Faiss epitomized competence and integrity. A man I proudly called a friend and whom I trusted unequivocally. For over 35 years, I referred clients who needed counsel in Las Vegas to Bob as I knew they would receive the best assistance possible. He truly was a lawyer’s lawyer and has left a legal and personal legacy which will never be replicated. A truly great Nevadan has left us!”

- *Frank Fahrenkopf, former President and CEO
of the American Gaming Association*



“Many words come to mind to describe Bob: advocate, counselor, mentor, colleague, leader, intelligent, honorable, sincere, compassionate, dedicated, industrious to name just a few. But the one word that I am most honored to use to describe Bob is friend. It was indeed a true privilege to have this wonderful human being as my friend.”

- *Dennis Gallagher, Chief Deputy Attorney
General, Nevada Attorney General’s Office*

“I am confident many will comment on Bob’s contributions to the practice and industry, his loyalty, his friendship and other admirable qualities, so I’ll try to contribute something that might be overlooked or unknown to some. I was fortunate to

work and learn from the master himself, so I have a somewhat unique vantage point from which to comment. Bob was better than anyone I have ever met at taking a complex problem or set of problems, distilling the core issues, assessing the immediate issues, the likely ancillary and subsequent issues, engineering a plan or set of plans to address all of the current and future issues and then putting everything into action. Often, things went so well that nobody noticed that he not only made something that was once thought to be unlikely or impossible possible, but when Bob was done the outcome seemed inevitable or natural. In other words, from the outside, he made so many things look easy, when in fact they were not. But that was part of his secret, few saw the hard work, crafting, planning, and execution that he invested for his clients and their matters to accomplish their goals. For this, and so many other reasons, he is missed already.”

- *Greg Gemignani, Attorney at
Lionel Sawyer & Collins*

“When I left GCB staff in 1993 as the Chief of the Corporate Securities Division to join Lionel Sawyer & Collins in Las Vegas, the primary reason I did so was to have the opportunity to work with and be mentored by Bob. For the next 13 years, I worked by his side, occupying his old office across from his new one, and even sharing his secretary for a time, learning as much as I could from him. Back in 2004, at IAGA’s annual International Gaming Conference held at the Phoenician resort in Scottsdale, Arizona, I had the privilege and honor of giving Bob’s induction speech as a Counselor of IAGA. With my apologies to those who heard my words the first time, I thought I would share again some of what I spoke about Bob at that wonderful time.

‘Legend. Legendary. These are words that are frequently overused in the English language. However, in the case of Bob Faiss, they are very appropriate and fitting.

Bob’s service to [IAGA] began as one of its founding members and as a charter trustee 25 years ago. Bob served as president of [IAGA] from 1984-85 when it was known as the national association of gaming attorneys. It was during his presidency that [IAGA’s] name was changed to the international association of gaming attorneys and held [its] first international gaming law conference.

Bob’s lifelong service to the gaming industry began when he was a much younger man with his appointment as the assistant executive secretary of the first Nevada Gaming Commission 43 years ago.

Bob was a gaming attorney when there was no such specialty recognized by any local, state or national bar association. As you all know, that has all changed now, due to the hard work and efforts of attorneys like Bob Faiss. Indeed, in 1997 Bob was named the premier gaming attorney in the United States and one of the ‘100 Most Influential Lawyers in America’ by the National Law Journal.

Bob served the gaming industry over the years in many different ways, from serving as the casino industry's representative on the U.S. Department of Treasury's Bank Secrecy Act Advisory Group from 1998-2003, to teaching gaming law and policy as an adjunct professor at the Boyd School of Law at UNLV.

Bob has also provided a great service to the gaming industry over the years by being a mentor and friend to many attorneys [reading this article], including myself. Bob is the consummate counselor and statesman, respected and admired by all who have known him.

But to know Bob is to also know that he is a quiet man. As Nevada State Gaming Control Board Member Bobby Siller once said, Bob was known around the GCB offices as 'E.F. Hutton' because when he speaks, people listen. As Mark Twain once said, 'silence is one great art of conversation.' Bob accomplished the most with the fewest words of any person I have ever known.

Bob is like the guru on the mountaintop who knows the secrets of the universe but won't disclose them to anyone - he merely leads you to discover them for yourself. So while Bob would never tell you himself, Bob's leadership and service to our industry is legendary.'

Bob, with all due respect to former Governor Grant Sawyer, YOU are the best man I ever knew."

- *P. Gregory Giordano, Parter at Lewis Roca Rothgerber*

"Bob was a nonpareil gaming lawyer, from whom I always learned something when we spoke about or worked on an issue. Bob was a quiet man who was an excellent listener and who always fully considered all aspects of an issue or question before giving his opinion. His opinions were always well-reasoned, convincing and carried great weight, whether with his clients, regulators or other lawyers. Bob's knowledge of the history and nuances of gaming law was unmatched."

- *Jack Godfrey, Executive Vice President, Secretary & General Counsel, Pinnacle Entertainment, Inc.*

"Bob Faiss was a professor, a scholar, and a gracious person. He developed the gaming law program at the law school, taught hundreds of students gaming law and policy, introduced students to industry leaders and mentors in the gaming community, and showed us all how to be both a great lawyer and a good person. The law school community will miss him and we are a far better institution because of his many contributions to our students and to our program."

- *Daniel Hamilton, Dean and Richard J. Morgan Professor of Law, UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law*

"I first met Bob in 1974 when I went to work in the Nevada Attorney General's Office as counsel to the Gaming Control

Board and the Gaming Commission. At that time, Bob worked closely with former Governor Grant Sawyer. Bob and Governor Sawyer were representing Consolidated Casinos, one of the first publicly-traded companies in Nevada, in a dispute over the manner in which Gaming Control Board audit agents demanded access to casino cages. The case ended up going all the way to the State Supreme Court where we all learned about Bob's and the Governor's formidable skills as litigators, as well as gaming attorneys. Their victory caused substantial revisions to be made to NGC Regulation 6 and the procedures followed by future Gaming Control Board agents when dealing with licensees.

It was my privilege to work with Bob and several other Nevada gaming attorneys to form the National Association of Gaming Attorneys and to work on it over the years as it has changed into the International Association of Gaming Advisors (IAGA). Bob brought his skills and willingness to work hard to IAGA as he did with all tasks that he handled, and was a valued past President and Member of the IAGA Board of Trustees for many years.

Over the years, I worked with Bob on many matters, and watched him represent many people and companies before the Gaming Authorities. Always a gentleman, he was a model of professionalism in all matters he handled. Bob was a mentor to many of the fine gaming attorneys who are leaders in the industry today, and his demeanor and method of practice has set an extraordinarily high standard for all attorneys who hope to be successful in their practices before gaming authorities across America."

- *A.J. "Bud" Hicks, Partner at McDonald Carano Wilson LLP*

"Mr. Faiss was the consummate professional, and most importantly, the consummate teacher. As a new member of the legislature and new member of the State Bar, I truly appreciated his kind and generous offering of his knowledge of gaming law and its history in our state. He did this without wanting anything in return. You'd be hard press to find another Nevadan/man like him."

- *William C. Horne, Majority Leader, Nevada State Assembly (D-District 34)*

"Bob Faiss and I have been friends since our Las Vegas High School days where he was Student Body President in 1954. As we all know, Bob served Governor Sawyer in various roles for the State of Nevada. Bob always represented his clients with integrity. Bob and I have enjoyed a wonderful relationship and professionally for many years."

- *S. Barton Jacka, former Chairman of the Nevada State Gaming Control Board*

"Bob Faiss has left an indelible mark on the gaming industry. Rather than give in to the chorus of critics, he understood elevating the industry was going to happen by setting high

standards. Above his gifted professional skills was his passion to put himself behind the achievements and potential of others. Others should choose his path. We will be better for it. I am better for it.”

- *Mark Lipparelli, former Chairman of the Nevada State Gaming Control Board*

“Bob Faiss was the perfect example to validate that the practice of law is more than just a job it is a profession. He was thorough and thoughtful in all his dealings. He practiced with a dignity that transcended time and would have suited him as well in the more formal atmosphere of times past while allowing him to be a role model in the present era. Bob was statesman like and enhanced the careers of public officials as well as other lawyers. He was what a lawyer should be.”

- *Bob Miller, former Governor of the State of Nevada*

“Bob Faiss was an excellent lawyer and an even better human being. He was a huge help to me in establishing the Boyd School of Law, taking the lead in creating and teaching the gaming law curriculum, serving as an excellent role model for the students and faculty, and providing valuable advice and support at critical times in the life of the school. I owe Bob great debts of gratitude for the help that he provided to me over the seventeen years of our friendship. Much as I miss Bob, I will always cherish the memories of that friendship.”

- *Richard Morgan, founding Dean of the UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law*

“Nevada and the global casino resort industry have lost a leading light in the passing of Bob Faiss. Bob's professionalism, intellect, and respect for the rule of law led to the creation of the fundamental regulations that helped to create a stable and well regulated industry here in Nevada as well as in jurisdictions across the country and around the world.

Here in Nevada, his contributions to his native state, its economy and its people cannot possibly be overstated. I will remember Bob as someone who displayed the most extraordinary sense of humility of virtually anyone I've known in this or any industry. For a man who literally wrote the book on gaming law, he always made those around him feel as if they were the most important people in the room. I will forever be in his debt for the wisdom, guidance and insights he provided to me and the entire MGM family.

We join with Bob's family, colleagues and his many friends in marking his passing and honoring his legacy.”

- *Jim Murren, Chairman and CEO of MGM Resorts International*

“Bob was truly a gentlemen lawyer and a pioneer of gaming law. He will be missed for many reasons, but his ability to

balance the interests of his clients and the state he loved benefited us all. He was a fixture in shaping public policy involving gaming issues not only for the bar and regulators, but his steady hand in the legislature was unmatched.”

- *Dennis Neilander, Of Counsel, Kaempfer Crowell and former Chairman of the Nevada State Gaming Control Board*

“I was Professor Faiss's favorite student. During school and after graduation, Bob went out of his way to give me opportunities to grow, stretch, and apply what I had learned in his gaming law classes at UNLV. He had no reason to help me except his selfless desire to see a student—employed at another firm, no less—advance as a gaming lawyer. All of these efforts, assistance, and mentorship must mean that I was his favorite student, but I wonder how many others will claim that same title?”

- *Maren Parry, Attorney at Ballard Spahr*

“I first met Bob in 1993 when I started my tenure as counsel to the Nevada Gaming Commission and State Gaming Control Board. He took it upon himself to call and welcome me to Gaming Division of the Attorney General's Office. Although I was shocked at the time that Bob Faiss of all people would call me a low ranking Deputy Attorney General, I should not have been. That was typical Bob. He was always very gracious and kind...but, make no mistake, he would fight for his clients.

Over the years, I had numerous occasions to oppose Bob, largely on tax issues before the Commission or in the



Legislature...casino entertainment tax, gross gaming revenue fees, predominantly concerning the treatment of markers and promotional items. No matter how much I prepared, he always seemed to find a way to prevail. He was masterful. Finally, in the late 1990s, in a contested gross revenue case brought by the Desert Inn, I had another chance. I prepared morning, noon and night. I studied the law and the Legislative history over and over and over again. I read the facts surrounding the audit forward and backwards, which, by the way, favored the state. On the day of the hearing, Bob got up before the Commission and threw me a curve. He obviously knew the facts were not on his side, so he started by arguing that the Board had the burden of proving there was a tax liability rather than the petitioner setting forth the grounds that it escaped taxation. Then, I remembered the Lionel Sawyer & Collins publication, 'Nevada Gaming Law: The Authoritative Guide to Nevada Gaming Law' (2nd ed. 1995). Sure enough, on page 374, in the book that everyone had on his or her desk, a book produced by Bob's law firm, it stated that the burden was on the casino. I argued, 'in all due respect, Mr. Faiss is wrong about the burden of proof' and then proudly held up my discovery, a copy of the book and read the passage from page 374. The statement was clear and unambiguous. I wanted to shut down any discussion on who had the burden and force Bob to argue the issue at hand. Bob responds, 'I am pleased that Mr. Rodefer is using our book, but he has misquoted the it.' What? To make things worse, the Commission was buying it too. In end, the Board prevailed on a 3-2 vote. Bob shook my hand and told me I done a great job on the brief and in my arguments. I actually beat Bob Faiss. I could not believe it.

In triumph, I returned to the office to announce the victory and it hardly resonated a response. Did these people not hear me? I beat Bob Faiss and saved the state a large chunk of tax dollars. I didn't get it. However, a couple of weeks later I would...Bob filed a motion for reconsideration. I thought, what a waste of time. He needs to file for judicial review. Confident that this was merely a stall tactic, but Commission saw it differently and granted Bob a new hearing. The following month, even though the law and facts had not changed from the initial hearing, Bob was able to convince the Commission of the error of its ways and swung a 5-0 vote in his favor...so much for my short-lived victory over Bob.

A couple of years later, in 1999, I authored the 'Nevada Gaming Law Index' that was published by the State Bar of Nevada. On March 18, 1999, former Governor Mike O'Callaghan in his editorial column for the Las Vegas Sun 'Where I Stand: Some Silver State Views' commented on the Index and interviewed Bob who stated 'It's a significant contribution to the field of gaming law.' I was speechless. Both Governor O'Callaghan and Bob Faiss thought I had done something meaningful. I got a copy of the article had both of them sign it. Bob wrote 'Jeff-You have created landmark work. Congratulations! Bob Faiss.' The man who created the practice of gaming law. The man whose name is synonymous with "gaming lawyer" thought I had done

something noteworthy in gaming. That was huge. I'll never forget it. I still have the article he and Governor O'Callaghan signed in a frame. Their comments mean more to me than my diplomas or any award I had received.

When I left the Attorney's General's in 2002, the office threw me a going away luncheon. Folks from the office and the Board attended, as well as Bob. I was left almost speechless again. Great lawyer. Better man."

- Jeff Rodefer, General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer at Golden Gaming, LLC

"Bob Faiss accomplished much for our community, and his commitment to a better Nevada was always at the forefront of his endeavors. He was recognized not only as one of Nevada's best lawyers, but as one of the best lawyers in the United States. The Faiss family and their friendship has meant so much to me, and they should be proud of their more than 70 years of contributions to the growth and success of Nevada."

- Harry Reid, Senate Majority Leader, United States Senate

"Bob Faiss defined what it was and is to be a gaming lawyer. He (along with Sam Lionel) also taught me the many different ways to win for a client, whether it be to out-research, out-think, out-write, out-argue, out-prepare, or just plain old out-work the other side (the other side sometimes being gaming investigators). And Bob always achieved a successful outcome in the most humble and classy way. After I left LS&C and became directly responsible for my companies' fate as a general counsel appearing before the regulators or a court, I truly would ask myself when approaching a meeting or hearing, 'what would Bob do?'"

- Marc Rubenstein, Senior Vice President, General Counsel & Secretary at Affinity Gaming

"Good lawyers are in abundance, exceptional lawyers are few. Bob was one of these few. With all of his successes he never stood in the spotlight, comfortably steering credit for others to enjoy. Thank you, Bob. You graciously shared your talents and ask for nothing in return."

- Randy Sayre, former Member of the Nevada State Gaming Control Board

"Bob brought credibility and distinction to the field of Gaming Law. I learned a great deal from Bob and will forever be grateful for his contributions and friendship."

- Frank Schreck, Chair of Gaming Law Group at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck

"Paraphrasing a quote from F.G. David, 'The measure of a man is how many doors he can open for others, who may not be able to open them for themselves.' The one most admirable trait about Bob was his 'selflessness.' He genuinely cared about helping others, with their education, with their careers,

with their families. He drove through life from the back seat, pushing others to bask in the limelight, many times one that he created. More than modesty or humility, Bob always made you feel special and confident that you were the only one who mattered. And to Bob...you were! A special mentor and a wonderful man.”

- *Jeffrey Silver, Chair of Administrative,
Gaming & Government Affairs
Department at Gordon Silver*

“Bob Faiss was a pioneer in gaming law whose incredible intellect, integrity, and grace helped make Nevada the international gold standard for the industry.”

- *Dina Titus, Congresswoman
(D-NV, District 1)*

“This great loss demanded that we gather our thoughts and put them on paper. My first reflection was that he was a quiet giant of a human being, an iconic gaming figure, nurturing mentor, whose integrity, intelligence, quiet resolve, gentlemanly demeanor, and longevity made him a better person than any of us are likely to ever meet.”

- *Randolph Townsend, Nevada Gaming
Commissioner and former
Nevada State Senator*

“I think one of Bob’s special gifts was his gentle way of communicating his knowledge and opinions. Only after a conversation would I realize that he’d just imparted something important in terms a neophyte could understand. Whether the news was good or bad, it always felt great to have his advice.”

- *Virginia Valentine, President of Nevada
Resort Association*

“Bob Faiss touched my life, as he touched the lives of so many, by being a warm, caring, conscientious man who was also a brilliant lawyer. He had a vision for his city, his profession, and the industry that built Las Vegas – gaming – and he had the patience to see that vision through. Bob saw that his city, profession, and gaming were made better through his classy demeanor, his dedication to excellence, and through his commitment to smart regulation of gaming, scrupulous professionalism as a lawyer, and his dedication to developing a wonderful city and state. Bob transformed the lives of scores of students at the William S. Boyd School of Law, as he did the many lawyers he mentored, building a cadre of dedicated, sophisticated gaming law experts. And, as was the case with these many lawyers, Bob became my friend, confidant and mentor – helping me make the Boyd School of Law better. For this he asked only for friendship in return. Bob Faiss, was my friend.”

- *John Valery White, Executive Vice
President and Provost, University of
Nevada, Las Vegas*

“I first had the opportunity to work with Bob in 1987, when as a Deputy Attorney General, I drafted a new accounting

regulation on behalf of the Gaming Control Board. Bob, representing the Nevada Resort Association, calmly and articulately argued as to why the Board’s existing regulation and the proposed version were simply wrong in the approach to gross gaming revenue calculation. Needless to say, he persuaded the Board and me that he was correct and I rewrote the regulation which stands today virtually as it was written 27 years ago. I knew then that Bob was an incredible lawyer – he could analyze a legal issue as well as anyone and yet he distilled his arguments in such simple language that you could not help but be persuaded. And he presented his arguments with such grace and aplomb that you wanted to be persuaded.

When I announced my plans to resign from the Attorney General’s Office to stay home with my two small children, Bob and Grant Sawyer persuaded me that they would help me do it all by allowing me a flexible work schedule. From that day forward, Bob was my champion. At a time when there were very few women in the gaming industry and maybe one or two of us practicing gaming law, Bob let his clients know that he had the upmost confidence in me and they therefore should as well. If a client called Bob to ‘double check’ whether my advice was sound, Bob would respond that I was correct, even before he heard the advice I had given the client.

Bob was also my mentor. Benjamin Franklin is attributed a quote that I believe encapsulates Bob as a mentor - ‘Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn.’ Bob ensured that he involved me in important matters on behalf of significant clients. As a result of Bob involving me, I participated in many of the industry’s milestones, experiences that will never be forgotten. In one particularly busy stretch, he and I, along with Board representatives went around the world in 11 days, spending time in Dubai and Australia, to establish the licensing investigation protocols for the investigation of a government decree entity and of the first Australian gaming operator to be licensed in Nevada.

And while I will forever remember the best days together and the joy he exuded in any of my accomplishments, I think I loved him most for being for and with me on the darkest days. When he couldn't stop the rain from falling, he made sure that he held the umbrella over my head. I could not have asked for a better friend.”

- *Ellen Whittemore, Whittemore
Gaming Group*

“It has been my privilege to know Bob Faiss for the last 31 years and call him a friend. He was more than a mentor. He was incredibly competent and always approached the representation of his clients with class and grace. He taught me how to be a lawyer.”

- *Mike Wilson, Chief Deputy
Attorney General, Gaming Division
Nevada Attorney General’s Office*

