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GAMING LAW SECTION

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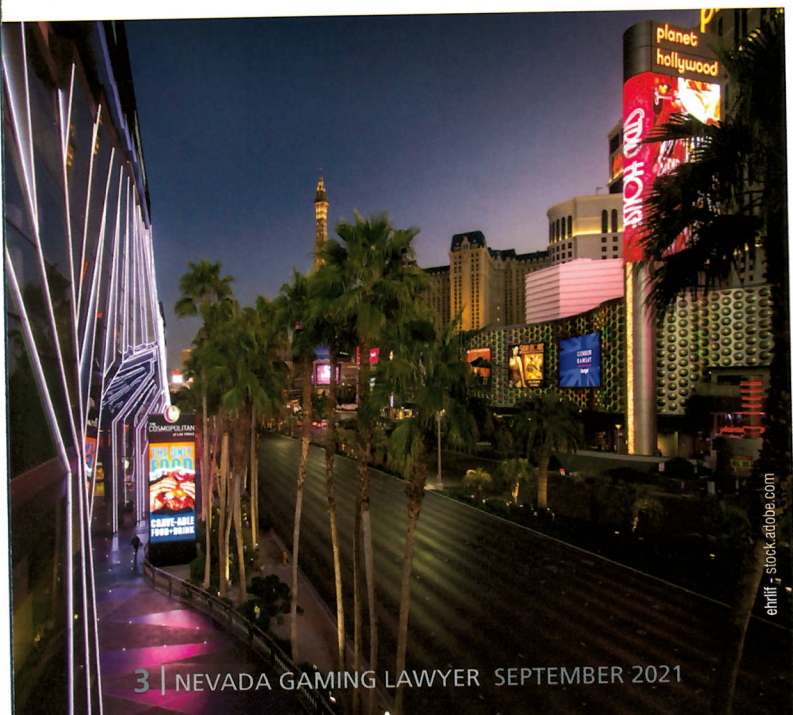
FOREWORD

By Ogonna Brown, Deborah J. Feutsch, and Rosa Solis-Rainey

Welcome to the 2021 edition of *Nevada Gaming Lawyer* magazine. Historic, Resilient, and Hope are some of the first words that come to mind when summing up the past 18 months. The Nevada Gaming Commission and the Nevada Gaming Control Board are tasked with protecting "the public health, safety, morals, good order general welfare of the inhabitants of the State, to foster the stability and success of gaming . . ." NRS § 463.0129(d). As Nevada joined the world in the fight against the global pandemic caused by Covid-19, Nevada's gaming regulators were called upon to help effectuate Governor Sisolak's sudden mandate for the temporary closure of *all* gaming establishments in the state and to develop a strategy for the reopening of our state's principal industry.

Requiring all non-essential businesses, including Nevada's largest and most economically significant industry, to turn off the lights on March 18, 2020, could not have been an easy decision, but it was the right one. As they have in other times of crisis, Nevadans responded to this unprecedented and uncertain time in history with strength and resiliency. Despite dealing with the devastating effects of having their doors closed for an unspecified timeframe, Nevada gaming licensees quickly mobilized and spearheaded efforts to collect and distribute PPE to our health heroes and most vulnerable citizens, to support efforts to transition our children to online education, and to fill food pantries that were critical to aid those in need. Without being required to do so, gaming companies searched for or developed innovative solutions and committed millions during the closure to make properties safer for their employees and guests. Many gaming companies developed employee assistance programs, often by reducing or foregoing executive compensation. During these uncertain months, many casinos lit up their world-famous marquees to spread hope and remind the world that casinos would soon reopen and shine brighter than ever.

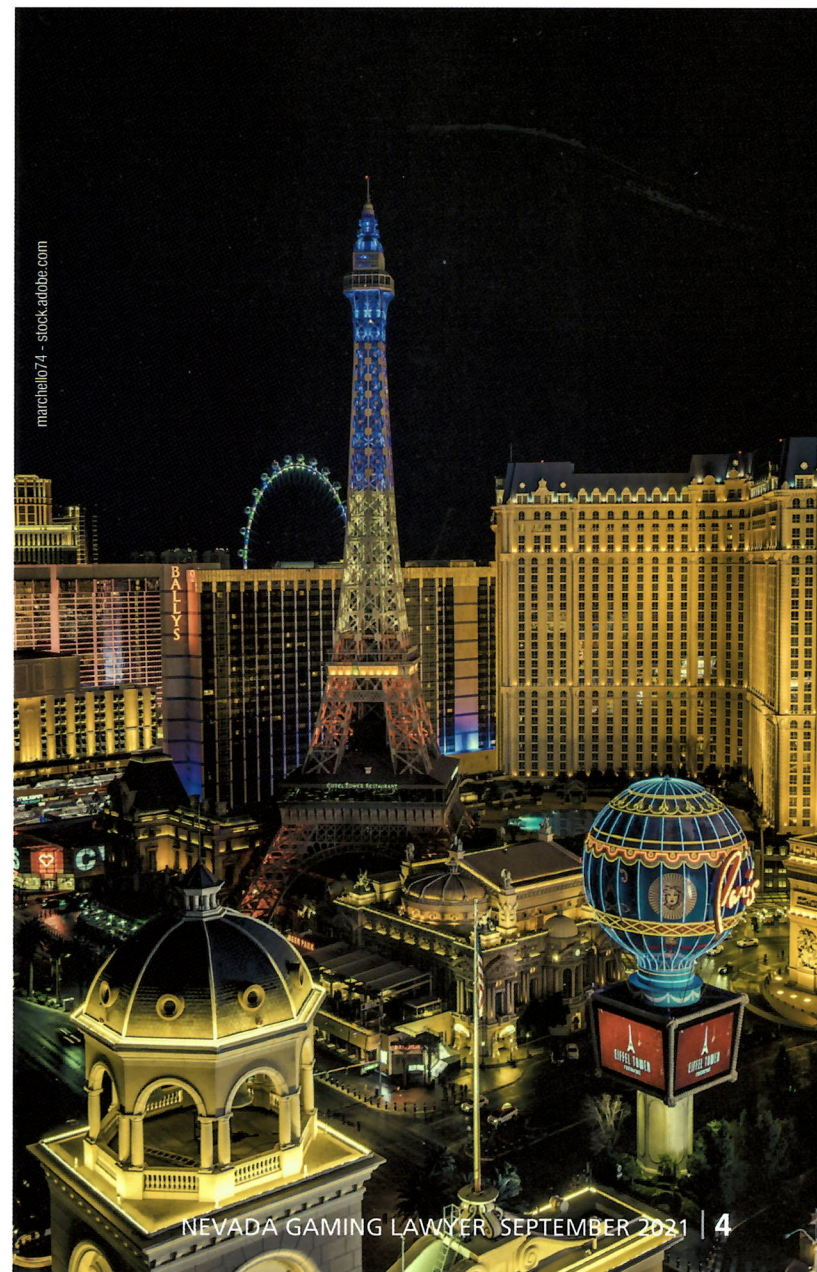
Although "video" meetings replaced in-person meetings and telecommuting became the norm, the hard-working staff and members of the Nevada Gaming Control Board continued all facets of their work and pivoted to address the pressing needs of the community. This allowed the Nevada Gaming Commission to continue its work: disciplinary matters were heard, new applicants were licensed, new games were approved, and at least three major properties opened in the midst of the pandemic. Hope for the day the sights and sounds of gaming would once again fill our State kept the industry leaders and regulators moving forward. Given the importance of gaming to the health and welfare of our State, failure was never an option.





The gaming industry is slowly healing and happily welcoming visitors from around the globe. The gaming industry doubled down and gambled that pent-up demand would bring an influx of tourists ready to escape to Las Vegas, and after the reopening, Las Vegas experienced record-breaking numbers over the summer months of 2021. Gaming companies are now supporting Nevada's recovery by not only providing much-needed jobs and tax revenue, but also by supporting communities through onsite vaccination clinics as well as incentives for citizens to take advantage of the many vaccination opportunities throughout the state. Covid-19 was a formidable foe, and we are not out of the woods, but it did not win. Nevada's recovery gets brighter each day and with the teamwork and comradery that is the fabric of the industry, Nevada will retain its house advantage.

A milestone of a different sort was also reached during these turbulent times. Two years after Nevada made history by becoming the first state in the union with a female-majority legislature, and one year after the Nevada Supreme Court became one of 10 in the nation with a female majority on the state's highest court, another glass ceiling was broken. Governor Sisolak's appointment of Ogonna Brown in July 2020 gave the Nevada Gaming Commission the first female majority in the history of our state. We hope such firsts will become the norm, and that in the coming years, gender will become irrelevant. We are proud to serve this dynamic industry who has shown such tremendous tenacity, grit and leadership during these unpredictable times. Thank you Nevada gaming companies for giving us all hope during these precarious times, and for providing so many Nevadans with the tools for a better tomorrow.



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