

April 19, 2013

Volume 19, Issue 11

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*Editor in Chief*

**David D. Waddell, Esq.**

Phone: 517.507.3859

[waddell@rmclegal.com](mailto:waddell@rmclegal.com)

*Senior Gaming Analyst & Editor*

**Robert R. Russell, II**

Phone: 517.507.3858

[russell@rmclegal.com](mailto:russell@rmclegal.com)

*Reporter and Associate Editor*

**Dustin M. Ford**

Phone: 517.999.5414

[dford@rmclegal.com](mailto:dford@rmclegal.com)

*Reporter*

**Douglas L. Minke**

Phone: 313.221.9380

[minke@rmclegal.com](mailto:minke@rmclegal.com)

*Reporter*

**Blaine R. DeGracia**

Phone: 517.507.3857

[degracia@rmclegal.com](mailto:degracia@rmclegal.com)

*Subscription information:*

[info@michigangaming.com](mailto:info@michigangaming.com)

A publication of

**RMC Ventures, LLC**

321 West Lake Lansing Road

East Lansing, MI 48823

Phone: 517.507.3860

Fax: 517.908.0235

[www.rmclegal.com](http://www.rmclegal.com)

# The MICHIGAN GAMING Newsletter



## AMERICAN GAMING ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES NEW CEO

On Wednesday, April 17, 2013, the American Gaming Association (“AGA”) announced that Geoff Freeman has been appointed as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the AGA, effective July 1, 2013. Mr. Freeman has extensive experience in the tourism and hospitality industry and is the former Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the US Travel Association, a national advocacy group that promotes travel to the United States, advocates for effective tourism policies, and provides research and information on tourism to the public.

“I am honored by the opportunity to build on AGA’s many successes and its effective representation of the vibrant gaming industry. As gaming grows around the globe, I look forward to strengthening our partnership with other aspects of the travel community and advancing policies that can empower our industry to thrive for years to come,” stated Mr. Freeman in a press release on the matter.

During his time with the US Travel Association, Mr. Freeman oversaw all of the organization’s operations and was a prominent advocate for national travel and tourism policies. He played a key role in the passage of the Travel Promotion Act of 2009, a federal law that creates a public-private partnership to promote a coordinated tourism campaign abroad. Notably, the program is financed entirely from international travelers and industry donations. In addition to these efforts, Mr. Freeman also increased the association’s resources that allowed for initiatives to decrease international visa wait times, reform the Transportation Security Administration, and improve national travel infrastructure.

Prior to his leadership with the US Travel Association, Mr. Freeman held

*(Continued on page 2)*

government relations positions with APCO Worldwide, a global public affairs firm, Freddie Mac, and the American Association of Health Plans.

Mr. Freeman will replace Mr. Frank Fahrenkopf, who announced his transition from the AGA in January. Mr. Fahrenkopf has been the CEO of the AGA since its inception in 1995 and will remain an outside consultant for the association throughout the leadership transition.

## **MOTORCITY CASINO HOTEL, MGM GRAND DETROIT AND SOARING EAGLE CASINO AND RESORT EARN AAA FOUR DIAMOND AWARDS**

As part of the Pure Michigan Governor's Conference on Tourism, which was held at the Renaissance Center in Detroit this week, AAA Michigan announced that three Michigan casino properties earned the prestigious AAA Four Diamond Award for their respective hotel facilities. MotorCity Casino Hotel, MGM Grand Detroit and the Soaring Eagle Casino Resort in Mount Pleasant each earned the Four Diamond rating, which honors hospitality industry excellence. In addition to winning a Four Diamond Award for its Hotel, MotorCity Casino's signature restaurant, Iridescence, also earned a Four Diamond Award in the restaurant category.

In a recent press release, Randy Villareal, Vice President of Non-Gaming Operations at MotorCity Casino Hotel said, "[w]e constantly strive to exceed the expectations of our guests, and this distinction reaffirms that. This year alone we're making several updates to our property, including a complete renovation and remodel of our lobby, and state-of-the-art technological and audiovisual enhancements to the property's meeting and banquet facilities. We've installed a TrueHD projector in Sound Board, floor-to-ceiling darkening shades to complement the new projector in Amnesia, and we've recently heightened Wi-Fi capabilities throughout the convention areas."

Steve Zanella, General Manager of MGM Grand Detroit said in a respective press release regarding the AAA Four Diamond Award, "I am incredibly proud of our team for their continued hard work.

Their efforts to make sure that each one of our guests are treated as a VIP is the reason why we are privileged to have received this honor for the past five years."

## **ATHENS ACQUISITION, LLC FINALIZES PURCHASE OF MAJORITY STAKE IN GREEKTOWN CASINO**

In a filing made with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 15<sup>th</sup>, Athens Acquisition, LLC reported that it had closed on a series of transactions in which it acquired 59.9% of the common stock of Greektown Superholdings, Inc., the ultimate parent company of Greektown Casino-Hotel, on an unconverted basis, and 76.8% of the voting power of all Greektown Superholdings, Inc. securities. These acquisitions were approved by the Michigan Gaming Control Board ("MGCB") at its public meeting on Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. At this meeting, the MGCB also found Mr. Dan Gilbert and Mr. Matt Cullen, principals of Athens Acquisition, eligible and suitable for gaming licensure under the Michigan Gaming Control and Revenue Act.

Athens Acquisition, LLC is an affiliate of Rock Gaming, LLC, an entity that owns majority stakes in two commercial casinos in Ohio, the Horseshoe Casino Cleveland and Horseshoe Casino Cincinnati, and is also involved in the development of a Horseshoe Casino in Baltimore, Maryland, which is expected to be completed in 2014. Rock Gaming also owns interests in the Thistledown Racino in northeast Ohio and the Turfway Park thoroughbred racetrack in northern Kentucky.

## **REGISTER NOW: TITLE 31 WEBINAR – PART 2 TO BE HELD MAY 22, 2013**

On April 17, 2013, the first of a two-part Title 31 Compliance Webinar series was held by casino industry professionals working together to enhance the casino industry's awareness of the Federal Anti-Money Laundering ("AML") regulations. The series has been organized by the

*(Continued on page 3)*

State Gaming Associations in Colorado, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, and Nevada.

Series One

[Click Here to Register](#) or visit [www.casinowebinar.com](http://www.casinowebinar.com) for more information.

Part One of the series, A Casino Case Study, explored a real-life Casino AML audit case that resulted in penalties and fines by the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN). Presenters discussed the potential consequences of insufficient compliance programs, noting that FinCEN has issued severe penalties to both business organizations and individual employees for failing to meet AML standards. The session provided attendees with an overview of common regulatory and internal control violations experienced by gaming properties, as well as discussed the legal standards for compliance with AML regulatory provisions.

Part Two of the series will be held on May 22, 2013 at 2p.m. EST. This session will build on the information provided in Part One, providing suggestions and guidelines for developing an effective AML compliance program. Industry experts will share their experiences in creating comprehensive solutions to common AML compliance issues, as well as address any questions that were raised during Part One of the series. A program outline is included below and includes information on how to register to attend Part Two.

More information on Part One of the series can be accessed at [www.casinowebinar.com](http://www.casinowebinar.com).

### *Part 2 – Developing a Comprehensive Compliance Program*

**Cost:** Free to Michigan Gaming Newsletter subscribers - \$50 for non-subscribers

**May 22, 2013 from 2-3 p.m. EST**

- Introduction into a Comprehensive Compliance Program
- A Compliance Program's Impact on Operations
- A Walk-through of Proper Form Filing Procedures
- Experience with Common Technical Difficulties and Troubleshooting Procedures
- Written Q & A Session Directed at Answering Specific Attendee Questions Submitted From