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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*

**Blaine R. DeGracia**  
Phone: 517.507.3857  
[degracia@rmclegal.com](mailto:degracia@rmclegal.com)

*Reporter*

**J.J. Burchman**  
Phone: 517.999.5414  
[burchman@rmclegal.com](mailto:burchman@rmclegal.com)

*Subscription information:*  
[info@michigangaming.com](mailto:info@michigangaming.com)

A publication of  
**RMC Ventures, LLC**

Asher Court  
321 W. Lake Lansing Rd.  
East Lansing, MI 48823  
Phone: 517.507.3860  
Fax: 517.908.0235  
[www.rmclegal.com](http://www.rmclegal.com)

# The \_\_\_\_\_ MICHIGAN GAMING \_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter



## **SAULT TRIBE DENIED LAND IN TRUST STATUS FOR LANSING AND WAYNE COUNTY BY DOI**

On Monday, July 24, 2017, the U.S. Department of the Interior ("DOI") issued a letter to the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians ("Tribe") denying the Tribe's trust land applications related to property in Lansing and Wayne County's Huron Township.

Monday's letter follows a letter from the DOI dated January 19, 2017 ("DAS-PED Letter") that informed the Tribe that the two land-into-trust acquisitions could not be approved because "the applications lack sufficient evidence to demonstrate that acquisition of the parcels would 'consolidate or enhance' tribal lands, as required by the MILCSA [Michigan Indian Land Claims Settlement Act]." Specifically the DAS-PED Letter requested that the Tribe demonstrate two distinct things:

1. That the lands were "acquired using amounts from interest or other income of the, 'Self-Sufficiency Fund,'" and
2. That the expenditures from the Tribe's Self-Sufficiency Fund were in accordance with one or more of the limitations provided in Section 108(c) of the MILCSA, which states that funds must be used (1) as an addition to the principal of the Fund, (2) as a dividend to tribal members, (3) as a per capita payment to some group or category of tribal members designated by the board of directors, (4) for educational, social welfare, health, cultural, or charitable purposes which benefit the members of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe, or (5) for consolidation or enhancement of tribal lands.

The July 24 letter notes that "[i]n the 6 months since the DAS-PED Letter, the Tribe has submitted no new evidence to demonstrate that acquisition of the Parcels would effect a consolidation or enhancement of tribal lands ... to

trigger MILCSA's mandatory trust provisions."

In a statement, Aaron Payment, chairperson of the Tribe said in part, "[w]e have no intention of giving up, and we will soon determine which option — legal, administrative or legislative — we will pursue to continue our fight for our legal rights.

The Tribe filed applications in June of 2014, to take 2.7 acres of land in downtown Lansing and 71 acres in Huron Township into trust. The Tribe is hoping that each parcel will serve as a gaming location.

To access the July 24, 2017 DOI letter, [please click here](#).

## **MGM GRAND DETROIT TO ADD TOPGOLF SIMULATOR**

Yesterday, July 27, 2017, Topgolf announced that it will soon be integrating its Swing Suite golf simulator into the MGM Grand Detroit. In September, the new addition will feature three simulators, lounge seating, HDTVs and food and beverage services.

"Topgolf Swing Suites feature a high-energy, interactive sports and social atmosphere that adds another dimension to our property for those looking for more than a gaming experience," said MGM Grand Detroit President and COO Michael Neubecker. "We are excited to bring this new offering to Detroit and to expand our strong relationship with Topgolf."

According to the announcement, up to six people can play, eat, drink and hang out in each simulator at one time. The Topgolf Swing Suite can be rented for business and social gatherings, including birthday and bachelorette/bachelor parties.

## **REGISTRATION OPEN: 2017 GLOBAL GAMING EXPO**

Registration for the 2017 Global Gaming Expo is now open. For Pricing Packages and Registration visit:

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

The Global Gaming Expo ("G2E"), which is presented by the American Gaming Association (AGA), will be held in Las Vegas from October 2-5 at the Sands Expo and Convention Center.

G2E 2017 will offer the next generation of casino innovations with the official introduction of skill-based slot machines. This year saw skill-based slots launching in casinos across the nation, and G2E 2017 attendees will experience the next iteration of these game-changing products before they are made available to the public.

"As the legalization of sports betting continues to grab national headlines, G2E 2017 will bring in the nation's top experts to address what a legal, regulated sports betting market will look like for our industry," said Geoff Freeman, AGA president and CEO.

Registration for the 2017 G2E exhibit hall and G2E seminars is now open. For Registration, Pricing Packages and Overview please visit: [www.globalgamingexpo.com](http://www.globalgamingexpo.com).