

November 4, 2016

Volume 22, Issue 33

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Editor in Chief

David D. Waddell, Esq.
Phone: 517.507.3859
waddell@rmclegal.com

Senior Gaming Analyst & Editor

Robert R. Russell, II
Phone: 517.507.3858
russell@rmclegal.com

Reporter and Associate Editor

Blaine R. DeGracia
Phone: 517.507.3857
degracia@rmclegal.com

Reporter

J.J. Burchman
Phone: 517.999.5414
burchman@rmclegal.com

Reporter

Matt Thornburg
Phone: 517.507.3860
mthornburg@rmclegal.com

Subscription information:
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

The **MICHIGAN GAMING** Newsletter



LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY BAND OF ODAWA INDIANS SEEKING TO CLARIFY RESERVATION LAND IN PETOSKEY AREA

In August of 2015, the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians (“LTBB”) filed suit against the state of Michigan in the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan, claiming that treaties from 1836 and 1855 grant them sovereignty over 337 square miles of land and 103 miles of shoreline located in most of Emmett County and Charlevoix County, Michigan.

The Tribe currently operates the Odawa Casino Resort in Petoskey and a Class II gaming facility in Mackinaw City, which opened in May of this year. Under the Tribe’s Tribal-State Gaming Compact, the Tribe may build a gaming facility on land holdings in Emmet or Charlevoix Counties. The facility, however, must first receive the approval of the local unit of government affected by the development.

Judge Maloney, of the Western District of Michigan, has split the case into two different phases. The first phase seeks to determine whether the reservation claimed by the LTBB exists and will include expert analysis and reports, due June 30, 2017. Disclosure of rebuttal reports will be due September 18, 2017 and completion of discovery is scheduled for April 23, 2018. If it is found that past treaties do establish a reservation, phase two would involve sorting out the subsequent jurisdictional uncertainty.

The Emmet County Lakeshore Association (“ECLA”) and Protection of Rights Alliance are being represented by Lance Boldrey of the law firm Dykema. Both groups were granted the right to intervene in the lawsuit,

along with Emmet and Charlevoix Counties, the cities of Harbor Springs and Charlevoix, and the eleven affected townships. Boldrey also noted that the tribe could allow Class II casino gaming on any member-owned property.

As reported by *Mlive.com*, much of the local concern stems from the fact that tribal sovereignty would trump state and local laws within the reservation.

EXEC. DIRECTOR GRANTS LIVE RACING DATES TO HAZEL PARK RACEWAY, NORTHVILLE DOWNS

On Thursday, November 4, the Michigan Gaming Control Board (“MGCB”) announced that it has granted live racing dates to Hazel Park Raceway and Northville Downs for the 2017 racing season.

“Northville Downs and Hazel Park Raceway combined will offer live racing during all but three months of next year,” said Richard Kalm, MGCB executive director. “The 90 racing events in the 2017 schedule include fewer overlapping dates than in 2016.”

Northville Downs was granted 54 days of live standardbred race dates on Fridays and Saturdays next year beginning March 3 through June 10 and resuming Sept. 8 through Nov. 25.

Hazel Park Raceway was granted 36 days of live thoroughbred race dates on Fridays and Saturdays from May 5 through Sept. 2, 2017. Live racing will occur concurrently at the tracks on Fridays and Saturdays from May 5 through June 10.

For more information on the Executive Director’s Orders, including copies of both Orders, please contact the MGCB at: <http://www.michigan.gov/mgcb/>

AGA’S GEOFF FREEMAN NAMED ONE OF TOP LOBBYISTS IN 2015

On October 28, 2016, American Gaming Association (“AGA”) President and CEO Geoff Freeman was named one of the top association lobbyists for 2015 by the Washington, DC newspaper *The Hill*.

The publication noted that “[w]ith Nevada’s prominent spot in the 2016 election, Freeman is putting his members front and center.”

Notably in May, Detroit commercial casinos MGM Grand Detroit, MotorCity Casino Hotel and Greektown Casino Hotel gathered for a joint Economic Development Roundtable that was organized and sponsored by the American Gaming Association (“AGA”) as part of its “Get to Know Gaming Campaign.”

The event, “Promises Made, Promises Kept: Casino Gaming Delivering for Detroit,” will highlight the benefits of casino gaming in Detroit by focusing on job creation, economic impacts, as well as positive community impacts.

The AGA’s “Get to Know Gaming” campaign is designed to highlight community impacts related to gaming activity across the country, focusing on the partnerships formed between casino operators and local government and interest groups. The campaign focuses on providing the public and policymakers with information related to the positive effects of casino gaming.

To sign up for the AGA’s Get to Know Gaming campaign alerts and other AGA communications, please visit <http://www.americangaming.org/connect>.

GGB MAGAZINE ANNOUNCES ANNUAL 40 UNDER 40 EMERGING LEADERS

Global Gaming Business Magazine (“GGB”) recently announced the 2016 class of 40 Under

40, the future of the gaming industry. Produced in conjunction with the Innovation Group and G2E's Emerging Leaders of Gaming program, the 40 Under 40 group represents the best of the next generation of leaders in the casino and gaming industry. Notably, BJ Bouschor, Vice President of IT for Firekeepers Casino Hotel and Justin Quigno, Director of Slot Services for Four Winds Casino from the Michigan market were named in GGB's 2012 Class of 40 Under 40.

"The Emerging Leaders of Gaming program has become the most important vehicle to recognize young leaders in the gaming industry," says Roger Gros, the publisher of GGB. "With over 100 nominations for Emerging Leaders, the 40 Under 40 list was difficult to choose. It's a testament to the bright future of these individuals, and we've been very gratified by the response of the industry."

The nomination process for next year's Emerging Leaders program begins in June. Watch the pages of this magazine and the G2E website (globalgamingexpo.com) for notification of the opening of the nomination process.

EMERGING LEADERS OF GAMING GROUP TO HOST WEBINAR TO ADDRESS POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF PRESIDENTIAL RESULTS ON GAMING INDUSTRY

On Thursday, November 17 at 2:00 p.m. EDT the Emerging Leaders of Gaming group will host an in-depth review of the 2016 election results and their potential impacts on the gaming industry.

Led by recent Global Gaming Business 40 Under 40 honoree Whitaker Askew, vice president of government relations for the American Gaming Association, the video webinar will feature some of the industry's leading lobbyists — experts from both sides of the aisle who can address regional, and national implications for commercial and tribal gaming.

Speakers Include:

Moderator – Whitaker Askew, American Gaming Association

Panelist – Kirk Blalock, Lobbyist, Fierce Government Relations

Panelist – Aurene Martin, Lobbyist, Spirit Rock Consulting

Panelist – Shanti Stanton, Lobbyist, Subject Matter

To register for the event, please visit: www.theinnovationgroup.com/emerging-leaders-gaming-webinar

For additional information please contact Marie Casias at mcasias@theinnovationgroup.com.