



Sean M. McGuinness

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Related Practices

Gaming
Tribal Affairs and Gaming
Bankruptcy and Creditors'
Rights

About Sean McGuinness

Mr. McGuinness is a partner in the firm's Gaming practice group. His practice focuses primarily in the areas of gaming, tribal affairs, administrative and corporate law. He is also involved with Lewis and Roca's Bankruptcy practice group in relation to gaming bankruptcy matters.

Mr. McGuinness has represented clients with licensing and regulatory matters before the Nevada State Gaming Control Board, the Nevada Gaming Commission, the Mississippi Gaming Commission, the Colorado Division of Gaming, the Iowa Racing & Gaming Commission and the National Indian Gaming Commission. He has also participated in gaming-related matters in other jurisdictions such as California, Louisiana, Michigan, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Canada, Switzerland and Hungary. Mr. McGuinness has represented gaming clients that have filed for bankruptcy protection, including Fitzgeralds Gaming Corporation, the Aladdin Hotel and Casino, and the Resort at Summerlin. He is also a frequent speaker on gaming issues at the State Bar of Nevada and the American Bar Association continuing legal education seminars. He has also assisted Professor Keith Miller at Drake University Law School with his alma mater's gaming law course.

Mr. McGuinness was previously with Beckley Singleton, which partnered with Lewis and Roca in 2007. Prior to joining the firm, he was Vice President and General Counsel for The Resort at Summerlin Hotel & Casino (1997-2001), had a private gaming law practice in Mississippi (1994-1997) and served as Compliance Director for the Mississippi Gaming Commission (1992-1993).

Representative Cases/Matters

- Nevada and Iowa gaming counsel for the senior leading group to Herbst Gaming, Inc.
- Royal Bank of Scotland, Credit Suisse and Deutsch Bank's financing related to the government of Dubai's purchase of an interest in MGM-Mirage
- Wells Fargo Bank's gaming transactions with the Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
- Refinancing of bank debt relating to the Kickapoo Casino

- Paltronics' Nevada Gaming Licensure
- Grand Sierra Resort's purchase of the Reno Hilton and subsequent transfer to JP Morgan Chase
- Representation of management companies receiving NIGC approval to manage for the Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma, the Hopland Band of Pomo Indians, The Elk Valley Rancheria and the San Pasquale Band of Mission Indians
- Granite Gaming Group's purchase of Mermaids and LaBayou casinos in downtown Las Vegas
- W.R. Hambrecht, the underwriter of FortuNet's initial public offering
- PDS Gaming's "going-private" transaction
- The Jackie Gaughan entities in the sale of the Plaza, Las Vegas Club, Western and Gold Spike casinos in downtown Las Vegas to Barrick Gaming
- Fitzgeralds Gaming Corporation in relation to the sale of their casinos in Nevada, Colorado and Mississippi in bankruptcy
- Hilton Hotels Corporation-Bally Entertainment Corporation merger
- Bishop Gorman Development Corporation, land purchase, zoning and \$15.3 million Clark County bond transaction for the new Bishop Gorman High School campus
- Various gaming licensing and related work for Horseshoe Gaming, Bally Entertainment Corporation, Hilton Hotel Corporation, ITT Sheraton, Circus Circus Enterprises, International Game Technology, Sigma Game, Fitzgeralds Gaming Corp., Aladdin Hotel & Casino, Hard Rock, Resort of Summerlin, New York New York Hotel & Casino, Flamingo Las Vegas, Trump Hotels & Casino Resorts, Union Plaza Hotel & Casino, El Cortez Hotel and Casino, Carson Valley Inn, Epic Gaming, among others

Memberships and Affiliations

- International Masters of Gaming Law, Member
- International Association of Gaming Advisors, Member
- TAGLAW, Member
- Nevada Council on Problem Gambling, Advisory Board Member
- Gaming Law Committee within the American Bar Association, Business Law Section, Immediate Past Chair and current Co-Chair of that committee's

- Commercial Gaming Subcommittee
- Gaming Law Section of the State Bar of Nevada, Executive Committee Member
- Gaming, Entertainment & Sports Section of the Colorado Bar Association, Member
- Mississippi Bar Gaming Law Section, Member
- Clark County Bar Association, Member
- Washoe County Bar Association, Member

Publications

- Author, "The State of the United States Gaming Industry," *Canadian Gaming Lawyer*, May 2009
- Co-Author, "Casino Bankruptcy Law and the Current Economic Crisis," *Casino Enterprise Management Magazine*, March 2009
- Author, "Representation of Management Companies and Vendors in Indian Country," *Inside the Minds: Emerging Issues in Tribal-State Relations*, 2009
- Author, "They Call It Gaming," *Business Law Today*, July/August 2006
- Author, "Indian Gaming: An Overview," *Nevada Gaming Law Section Newsletter*, April 2005
- Quote, "Gambling on Casino Cases," *ABA Journal*, April 2004
- Author, "Iowa Jurisdictional Update," *Gaming Lawyer*, 2001 and 2002
- Co-author, "The Implementation of Excurions Boat Gambling in Iowa," *Gambling and Public Policy: International Perspectives*, 1991

Speaking Engagements

- Speaker, "Ethics and the Gaming Industry," ABA 13th Annual Gaming Law Minefield, Las Vegas, Nevada, 2009
- Speaker, "Ethics and Gaming Law," Drake Law School Gaming Law Symposium, Des Moines, Iowa, 2008
- Speaker, "Gaming Law for the Non-Gaming Lawyer", State Bar of Nevada, Annual Meeting, Santa Barbara, California, 2008
- Speaker, "New Game and Associated Equipment Approval Process in Nevada," Lorman Gaming Law Seminar, Las Vegas, Nevada, 2008
- Featured Guest, "Nevada Newsmaker" show hosted by Sam Shad, which aired on July 25, 2007, to discuss the

Lewis and Roca / Beckley Singleton Partnership. In addition to being a guest, he is also a recurrent pundit on the show

- Speaker, "Ethics and the Gaming Industry," ABA 11th Annual Gaming Law Minefield, Las Vegas, Nevada, 2007
- Speaker, "Governance, Regulatory and Internal Control Issues Related to Indian Gaming," Western Intergovernmental Audit Forum, Reno, Nevada, Oct 2006
- Speaker, "Gulf Coast Gaming Update," ABA Section of Business Law, Tampa, Florida, 2006
- Speaker, "Compliance," ABA 10th Annual Gaming Law Minefield, Las Vegas, Nevada, 2006
- Speaker, "Gaming Issues: Regional Update and Internet Implications," ABA Section of Business Law, Nashville, Tennessee, 2005
- Speaker, "Compliance," State Bar of Nevada, Las Vegas, Nevada, 2005
- Speaker, "Washington's Rule Simplification Project," Northwest Gaming Law Summit, Seattle, Washington, 2005
- Speaker, "Gaming Bankruptcies," ABA Section of Business Law, Seattle, Washington, 2004
- Speaker, "Betting on the Home Team: College Sports Betting," ABA Section of Business Law, Atlanta, Georgia, 2004
- Speaker, "Indian Gaming," State Bar of Nevada, Las Vegas, Nevada, 2004
- Speaker, "Gaming Law - Tribal Gaming," State Bar of Nevada, Annual Meeting, Coronado, California, 2004
- Speaker, Global Gaming Expo, Las Vegas, Nevada, 2003
- Speaker, "Gaming Law: Progressive Regulatory Systems," Southern Gaming Summit, Biloxi, Mississippi, 1996
- Speaker, "Implementation of Gaming in New Jurisdictions," International Congress on Casino Regulation and Control, Locarno, Switzerland, 1993
- Speaker, "Implementation of Riverboat Gaming in Iowa," Eighth International Conference on Risk & Gaming, London, England, 1990

Other Distinctions

Mr. McGuinness has an "AV/Preeminent Attorney" rating with

Martindale-Hubbell. He was recognized on the “Who’s Who List” by *In Business Las Vegas* in 2005 and 2006. Mr. McGuinness was also named in the 2007, 2008 and 2009 editions of *Mountain States Super Lawyers* in the field of Gaming Law. In addition, he was listed in the *Chambers USA 2008* and 2009 publications in the category of Gaming and Licensing and in the 2009 and 2010 editions of *The Best Lawyers in America*®, by Woodward/White, Aiken, S.C. in the category of Gaming Law.

Education

- J.D., Drake University Law School, 1989
- M.A., Drake University, 1989
- B.A., Drake University, 1986

Bar Admissions

Nevada, 2001

Colorado, 2000

Iowa, 1990

Mississippi, 1994