

Steve Burke

President & Publisher
(425) 885-6997

Anne Burke

VP of Operations

Brian Drozdov

Advertising Director
(425) 922-3890

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(425) 885-3922

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Advertising Sales

(425) 922-3890

Circulation

subscribe@indiangaming.com

Main Office

(425) 885-6006 phone / (509) 891-0580 fax

Email: info@indiangaming.com

www.indiangaming.com

FROM THE PUBLISHER

The recently revised Department of Justice (DOJ) opinion on the Wire Act is raising many new questions surrounding the legality of any form of online gambling. Authored by Steven A. Engel, Assistant Attorney General in the Office of Legal Counsel (OLC), the opinion is a reversal to the original DOJ opinion during the Obama Administration, which implied the Wire Act was only applicable to sports betting. As the National Indian Gaming Association has commented, in many ways, this revised guidance creates more questions than answers.

Sara Slane, American Gaming Association's (AGA) Senior Vice President of Public Affairs, issued the following statement in response to OLC's opinion: "It is unfortunate that the Department of Justice departed from well-established practice in reversing its previous opinion without a compelling reason to do so. However, the 2018 OLC opinion does not impact the ability for states and tribes to legalize and regulate gaming on a state-by-state and tribal basis, or for companies to provide the exciting products and entertainment experiences our customers want."

As more clarity arises on this important issue, we will continue to keep you informed. In the meantime, this month we feature two sports betting articles, written by Andrew Klebanow of Global Market Advisors and Knute Knudson of IGT, respectively.

On the conference front, next up we head to CNIGA's Western Indian Gaming Conference & Trade Show held February 4-7 at Harrah's Resort Southern California. This event has proven to be a very informative West Coast conference for Indian Country, drawing tribal leaders, casino operations managers, regulators, policy makers and industry professionals together to discuss issues facing the tribal gaming industry. We will also be attending ICE London, held February 5-7 – one of the world's largest gaming shows. While in the U.K., we will be talking with tribal leaders in attendance, and covering several important sessions.

If you are attending either of these important events, be sure to say hello!



Steve Burke, Publisher

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