

The Economic and Social Impact of Indian Gaming in the U.S.

A Forum Sponsored by
The Center for State and Local Taxation
University of California, Davis
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Agenda

- 8:00-8:30 Continental Breakfast
- 8:30-8:45 Welcome and Introduction
Steven M. Sheffrin
- 8:45-9:30 The Legal Basis for Indian Gaming:
The Indian Gaming Regulatory Act
Philip N. Hogen, Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission
- Chairman Hogen will review the history and development of Federal Indian policy and the aspects of that policy that provided the foundation for Indian gaming. He will outline the legislative history of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) and examine its implementation and some of the legal challenges that now confront tribes and the Indian gaming industry.
- 9:30-10:15 “The Taxation of Indians and Those Doing Business With Them”
Richard D. Pomp
- Professor Pomp will discuss the various doctrines that apply to the taxation of Indians; gaming, reservation activities, and non-Indians doing business with Indians. He will focus on treaties, statutes, and Supreme Court cases.
- 10:15-10:30 Break
- 10:30-11:15 “The State of the Indian Gaming Industry”
Alan Meister
- Dr. Meister will provide a current and comprehensive overview of the Indian gaming industry. He will discuss the size and growth of the industry, Indian gaming’s contribution to the U.S. economy, and direct payments made by tribes to state and local governments. He will also provide some historical perspective on Indian gaming and comparisons of Indian gaming to commercial casinos and racinos.
- 11:15-12:00 “The Past, Present & Future Developments of California’s Tribal Gaming Industry”
Richard H. Wells
- This presentation will include the following topics: Important principles regarding tribes in the USA; important developments in Indian gaming law; underlying political issues with tribal casinos; ongoing legal distinctions; current policy challenges; stages of development for Indian gaming; dimensions of Indian gaming—national perspective and California; distribution of tribal lands; recent developments and their implications; impact of California Tribal Gaming on Northern Nevada; predictions for the future.

12:00-1:00

Lunch

1:00-1:45

“Calculating Costs and Benefits: Measuring the Social and Economic Impacts of Indian Gaming in the United States”

Katherine Spilde Contreras

Dr. Contreras will focus on the challenges of measuring the long-term social and private rates of return for the Tribal gaming industry. She will discuss several obstacles that contribute to the limited scope of research including data availability, the geographic variation and scope of Indian gaming, the uniqueness of Indian gaming venues and their impacts, and the multiple policy environments within which Indian gaming operates.

1:45-2:30

“Gambling Behavior and Consequences: Social and Economic Impacts on Consumers”

Dean R. Gerstein

The current annual retail bill for gaming products in the US is in the neighborhood of \$100 billion, exceeding the combined cost of all other types of leisure activities. Approximately a quarter of these products are supplied by tribal establishments. As with certain other types of consumer products, downsides in the form of net negative utilities and externalities have been observed in association with some patterns of consumer gambling behavior, dubbed as “problem gambling.” Dr. Gerstein will characterize and review recent developments in studies of problem gambling, including the potential relevance for tribal gambling operations.

2:30-2:45

Break

2:45-3:30

“Indian Economic Development Through Casino Gaming”

Gary Anders

The unprecedented success of Indian gaming has empowered some tribes with a financial windfall based on gambling profits. This success has provided tribes with the resources to support other types of non-gambling economic activities. Dr. Anders examines the potential for sustainable economic development when the economic engine is driven by gambling.

3:30-4:15

“The Impact of Indian Gaming on State and Local Public Finance”

Terri Sexton

Dr. Sexton will examine the variation in tribal-state compacts across and within states, focusing on the revenue sharing arrangements between the tribes and state and local governments. She will also provide a review of research findings regarding the impact of Indian gaming on state and local government expenditures and revenues.

4:15-4:30

Conclusion and Summation