



## **Pacifico S. Agnellini**

**Shareholder**

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**Atlantic City, New Jersey**

Pat Agnellini concentrates his practice in all aspects of gaming law with an emphasis on licensing and operational regulatory compliance matters as well as various types of commercial transactional matters. A pioneer in online gaming, he helped shape the future of internet gaming nationally and was highly involved in the regulatory process of legalizing internet gaming in New Jersey.

Pat's broad and extensive gaming experience includes serving as in-house general counsel for a major casino company, as well as many years in the areas of federal, state and local regulatory compliance. Drawing on that experience, he creates compliance programs and serves as legal and regulatory counsel to gaming company audit and compliance committees. He effectively guides clients through licensing and compliance matters before the New Jersey Division of Gaming Enforcement, Casino Control Commission, Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control, Department of Community Affairs and Casino Reinvestment and Development Authority. He has also represented clients before the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board.

With the recent repeal of the federal Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act (PASPA) opening the doors for sports betting, Pat has worked with both online and brick-and-mortar casinos on licensing issues and regulatory approval and compliance related to this new space.

Pat has considerable experience advising individuals, as well as large and small businesses, on a wide range of issues involving acquisitions and dispositions of physical assets and real estate, and the tax and financial implications inherent in such transactions. He also serves on Brownstein's Ethics Committee.

### **Practices**

Gaming, Sports Betting & Online Gaming, Acquisition Disposition, Tax

### **Internet Gaming**

The emergence of online real money and social gaming, sports betting, fantasy sports and skill-based games, while incredibly lucrative, has created a host of issues for traditional brick and mortar operators, as well as online, social and fantasy operators. Pat helps both traditional land based operators and on-line operators of these products and their ancillary service providers navigate the evolving maze of federal, state and local online gaming laws ensuring compliance.

### **Regulatory Approval and Compliance**

Pat works with both large and small businesses in the gaming industry. His practice includes assisting companies in all aspects of the regulatory process. He has experience in licensing and/or regulatory compliance involving real money, social and fantasy gaming operations and now sports betting from both brick and mortar and online perspectives.

### **General Counsel**

Pat's extensive casino gaming experience includes serving as VP of Legal Affairs and Risk Management to Trump Entertainment Resorts, where he was responsible for the management of certain legal and operational areas for the billion-dollar, multi-jurisdictional casino company. His focus while with Trump, and since, has

been counseling gaming clients on all aspects of business operations, including regulatory compliance, regulatory related issues concerning commercial debt restructuring and workouts, and real estate transactions.

### **Representative Matters**

- As national thought leaders in gaming & gambling, our gaming team has been called to play a central role in one of the most significant developments for the sector of recent times. We have been providing strategic and legal counsel to multiple entities in the roll-out of both in-casino and on-line sports wagering in the state of New Jersey and in connection with its potential roll-out into other states across the US. Our team also has played a significant role in paving the way for this critical new development in US gaming law, confirming our market-leading work on this field.
- Our national gaming team represented Ocean Walk and its principals in the acquisition, financing and development of the Ocean Resort Casino in Atlantic City. The property, formerly known as Revel Casino Hotel, consists of a hotel & casino with circa 1,400 rooms situated on the Atlantic City Boardwalk. Our team also assisted in obtaining the required licensure arrangements for the facility in readiness for its opening in summer 2018. This matter confirms how our team has the ability to provide the full range of sector-specialist corporate/M&A; financing; development; licensing and regulatory services required on such major mandates.
- Our national gaming team is advising hospitality/gaming entities and acting as counsel to their compliance and audit committees in conjunction with approvals for their cyber security program. Given the huge changes sweeping the on-line gaming sector across the US over the review period, our ability to provide global-standard cyber security counsel is an increasingly critical asset for clients in this sector.

### **Community**

Chair, AtlantiCare Foundation

Advisory Committee, Let Us Eat...Please!

### **Publications & Presentations**

- Gaming Law in the United States (New Jersey): Overview, Contributor, *Gaming Law Global Guide 2017*, February 2017
- Gambling or Not: Defining the Legal Status of Products at the Intersection of Gambling and Entertainment, Panel Moderator, World Regulatory Briefing, ICE Totally Gaming Conference, February 2, 2016
- Casino and Gaming Law, Presenter, National Business Institute Teleconference, March 16, 2016
- iGaming Regulation in California, Speaker, 2015 California iGaming Legislative Symposium, Sacramento, CA, February 26, 2015
- Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck Knows the Ins and Outs of Large Multi-jurisdictional Gaming Application Transactions, *Brownstein Client Alert*, July 25, 2013
- East Meets West - Internet Gaming in New Jersey, *Brownstein Client Alert*, March 4, 2013

### **Education**

- J.D., 1992, Widener University School of Law
- LL.M. in Taxation, 1993, Villanova University School of Law
- B.S., 1988, Boston University

### **Admissions**

- New Jersey
- Pennsylvania
- U.S. District Court, District of New Jersey

- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Pennsylvania
- U.S. Tax Court

### **Recognition**

2019 New Jersey Trailblazer, *New Jersey Law Journal*

### **Membership**

New Jersey State Bar Association

Casino Law Section Chair, New Jersey Bar Association, 2010

Prior Trustee Casino Law Section, New Jersey Bar Association

American Bar Association

International Association of Gaming Advisors