



Partner

A.J. "BUD" HICKS

ajhicks@mcdonaldcarano.com

PHONE 775.788.2000 FAX 775.788.2020 CELL 775.721.4863

Areas of Practice

Gaming & Administrative Law;
Business Entities & Transactions;
Government Affairs & Advocacy

Bar Admissions

Nevada

Court Admissions

U.S. Supreme Court
U.S. District Court,
District of Nevada
U.S. Court of Appeals,
Ninth Circuit

Education

J.D., University of Southern
California, 1972
B.S., Finance, Cum Laude,
University of Southern California,
1968

Offices

LAS VEGAS
2300 West Sahara Avenue, Suite 1200
Las Vegas, NV 89102
P: 702.873.4100 F: 702.873.9966

RENO
100 West Liberty Street, Tenth Floor
Reno, NV 89501
P: 775.788.2000 F: 775.788.2020

mcdonaldcarano.com

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

One of Nevada's most experienced gaming law practitioners, Mr. Hicks' primary areas of practice are gaming law and related corporate, litigation, and transactional matters. His clients include many well-known Nevada resort gaming operators and gaming equipment suppliers and Nevada's largest Native American gaming operation. He has represented publicly traded gaming companies and their controlling persons, as well as many privately owned gaming establishments and their owners on gaming matters in the State of Nevada and other jurisdictions.

Mr. Hicks has also consulted on gaming matters for major investment banking firms and commercial lenders. He frequently serves as a Nevada counsel on large transactional matters and related financings to companies involved in the gaming industry. Although based in Reno, Mr. Hicks also works out of McDonald Carano's Las Vegas office, and many of his clients and their matters are located in that area.

Mr. Hicks has served as an expert witness on gaming law matters, published numerous articles on gaming issues, and testified before the U.S. Congress and the Nevada State Legislature on gaming matters. He served as Chief Deputy Attorney General for the State of Nevada and the Nevada Gaming Commission in a landmark case that rid the gaming industry of the last vestiges of organized crime. As a result of his extensive regulatory experience, he often assists his clients on compliance matters and other sensitive licensing and regulatory issues.

AREAS OF EXPERIENCE

Gaming & Administrative Law

Mr. Hicks has more than 40 years of experience dealing with gaming matters, including counseling and representing people and entities proposing to enter the gaming industry; lenders dealing with gaming operators, including lenders involved in financial restructurings of gaming companies; private and public companies involved in the gaming industry; and high net worth individuals involved in the gaming industry throughout America. He represents such clients in all gaming matters, including licensing, compliance, and operational matters subject to gaming regulation. Mr. Hicks also works with manufacturers and distributors of gaming devices and gaming systems and with Native American gaming operations. He is often called on to assist lenders and other interested parties in creditor proceedings involving licensed gaming companies.

Business Entities & Transactions

Not limiting himself to companies in the gaming industry, Mr. Hicks is also experienced in the formation, operation, and financing of business entities of all types. He works

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with numerous Nevada corporations and their out-of-state counsel on local matters, including questions of corporate law and litigation matters. As a result of his extensive experience in the gaming industry and his experience as a chief deputy attorney general for the state, Mr. Hicks represents various parties and companies involved in corporate and business disputes in the various state and federal courts in Nevada.

RECENT REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

Represented a family owned company in the purchase and licensure of a Las Vegas Strip hotel casino.

Represented Boyd Gaming Corporation in the acquisition of three Las Vegas hotel casino properties and in obtaining related gaming licenses and approvals.

Assisted Eldorado Resorts, Inc., in the mergers and acquisitions of two regional gaming operations, expanding their gaming operations to 20 locations in 10 states, and in obtaining related gaming licenses and approvals.

Represented two multi-regional publicly traded gaming companies on major financings and related pledges of gaming properties.

Represented several non-gaming publicly traded companies on matters of Nevada law relating to securities offerings.

Assisted a consortium of lenders in the successful imposition of a court-appointed Receiver over and subsequent foreclosure upon a major Las Vegas gaming resort and handled related gaming and business licenses and approvals.

Represents Nevada's largest Native-American owned hotel casino resort.

Serves on the Gaming Regulatory Compliance Committees of (1) a multi-regional publicly traded gaming company, (2) a publicly traded company that operates truck and automobile service centers throughout North America including some with gaming operations, and (3) a private equity fund holding significant gaming interests.

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AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Chambers USA, Band I - Gaming & Licensing

Martindale-Hubbell® AV Preeminent™ Rating (since 1984)

The Best Lawyers in America® - Gaming Law (since 2003)

Super Lawyers - Gaming Law

Nevada Business Magazine “Legal Elite”

Member, Counselors of IAGA (since 1986)

Founding Trustee and Past President, International Association of Gaming Advisors

Founding Chairman, Nevada Bar Association Gaming Law Section

Past President, Gaming Law Section of American Bar Association



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Non-Voting Member of the Governing Board of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency

Member, California-Nevada Tahoe Basin Fire Commission (2007-2009)

Member, Nevada Tahoe Basin Fire Oversight Commission (2009-2010)

Honorary Firefighter, Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District 2008

Board Member & President, Glenbrook Homeowners Association (Lake Tahoe)
(1999-2014)

Member, Advisory Board, UNLV Gaming Law Journal,
William S. Boyd School of Law

Member, Nevada Sesquicentennial Commission (2011-2014)

Chairman, Nevada 150 Foundation, 2012 to present

Published author of fictionalized works inspired by real gaming events and characters, including “*Fortune’s Trail – A Nevada Story*” and “*The Count Room*”

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