



## **Kelci S. Binau, Associate**

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### **Areas of Practice**

Gaming & Administrative Law  
Business Entities & Transactions

### **Bar Admissions**

Nevada, California

### **Education**

- J.D., with Great Distinction (Top 10%), Tax and Business Concentration, University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, 2018
  - The Order of the Coif, Traynor Honor Society, GPA 3.71
  - *Law Review*, Primary Editor 2017, Comment Staff Writer 2016-2017, Legislative Staff Writer 2016
  - Witkin Awards: Wills & Trusts, Taxation of Partnerships and S Corps, Taxation of Real Estate Transactions
  - Dean's List: 2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2017-2018
- Master of Education in Elementary Education, GPA 3.976, University of Nevada, Reno, 2013
- Bachelor of Arts in Speech Communication, Minor in Women's Studies, University of Nevada, Reno, 2010

Kelci S. Binau is an attorney in the Gaming & Administrative Law Practice and the Business Entities & Transactions Practice at McDonald Carano. Ms. Binau serves as Vice Chair of the firm's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee and Vice Chair of the Associates' Committee. She also serves on the Executive Committee of the Gaming Law Section of the State Bar of Nevada and the Board of Directors of Global Gaming Women. Her background includes serving as a Legal Extern for the Honorable Chief Judge Beesley and Judge Gregg W. Zive in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Nevada in Reno, Nevada.

Ms. Binau's clients include U.S. and international owners and operators of casinos, pari-mutuel wagering facilities, hotels and resorts, nonrestricted and restricted gaming licensees, operators of online gaming, mobile gaming, social gaming, sports betting and sportsbooks, skill-based gaming, manufacturers and distributors, service providers, travel centers, private equity firms, traditional and non-traditional investors, Native American tribes, and executives and key employees and gaming employees. She advises and represents clients through state gaming regulatory, licensing, and registration requirements including applications, Board investigations, interviews and appearances at Board and Commission public hearings. She further assists with compliance plans, transactional reorganizations and M&As, local licensing, and government affairs. She provides ongoing guidance to clients regarding communication with regulatory agencies and Boards within the gaming industry.

Ms. Binau's gaming law practice includes experience analyzing the legality of client games and platforms and researching and drafting 50-state and multistate gaming surveys concerning contests, sweepstakes, daily fantasy sports, sports wagering, and skill games. She also provides multistate regulatory research

and guidance to gaming startups and leads multistate legal teams with launch initiatives and analysis of and approaches into various regulatory landscapes.

Ms. Binau provides licensing, approval and compliance assistance to companies involved in the development, management, financing, acquisition and restructuring of gaming projects in the casino and on-line gaming markets. She helps clients obtain and maintain licenses and approvals and provides assistance and guidance throughout all steps in the process, including initial application, investigation and interview, public hearing on suitability, and ongoing obligations to update regulators. She has experience with waivers or exemptions from licensing requirements on behalf of clients that do not exert the required control over the gaming enterprise.

In her corporate law practice, Ms. Binau guides companies through commercial transactions involving formation, incorporation, governance, operation, growth, and mergers and acquisitions. She has assisted clients with designing their corporate structure, domesticating, merging and converting foreign and domestic entities, and acquiring state and city business licenses. Ms. Binau's clients include publicly traded corporations, privately held businesses and startups in a wide range of industry sectors, including hospitality, entertainment, technology, education, healthcare, accounting, financial services, retail, manufacturing, and transportation.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Ms. Binau assisted entities and individuals in navigating the complex CARES Act and American Rescue Plan Act, including regulations for various government assistance programs, such as the Paycheck Protection Program.

Additionally, Ms. Binau has experience with the foundational elements of Trust and Estate Planning with an emphasis on asset protection and wealth preservation, fiduciary and beneficiary representation, foundation and tax-exempt organization initiatives, gaming trusts, and generation-skipping, gift and income tax planning.

## **Awards and Recognition**

- *State Bar of Nevada* – Partner in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (2023-2026)
- *GamblingIQ* – The Next Generation of Women Leaders: Magnificent 7 in Legal, Compliance and Responsible Gaming (2026)
- *Global Gaming Business* – Emerging Leaders of Gaming 40 Under 40 Class of 2026 (published September 2025)
- *Lawdragon 500 X: The Next Generation* – The Future Leaders of the Law (2025, 2024)
- *The Best Lawyers in America* – Gaming Law (2024-2026)
- *The Best Lawyers in America* – Administrative & Regulatory Law (2022-2026)
- Feature Interview: “The Lady Behind the Label,” Meritas Women’s Leadership Congress (2024)
- *Nevada Business Magazine* – Top Rank Attorneys (2024)
- *Northern Nevada Business Weekly*, Best In Business awards – Up & Coming Business Person (2024, 2023)
- *CDC Gaming* – 10 Women Rising in Gaming Under 40 (2023)
- Nevada Women’s Fund – Women of Achievement Honoree (2023)

## Presentations and Publications

- Quoted, “Penn Entertainment seeks technology-related licensing for M Resort,” *CDC Gaming*, December 9, 2025
- Panel Presenter, “Sweeping Changes: The Longevity and Legacy of Sweepstakes Casinos,” NEXT.io iGaming and Sports Betting Summit, March 12, 2025
- Panel Presenter, “Technology’s Impact on Gaming Compliance Programs,” Global Gaming Expo, October 7, 2024
- Author, “Artificial Intelligence in the Gaming Industry – The Use We Give it, For Good or Evil,” *Nevada Gaming Lawyer*, 2024
- Panel Presenter, “Grey Markets as a Business Plan: risks and rewards of expanding into grey markets when scaling a business,” NEXT.io iGaming and Sports Betting Summit, March 7, 2024
- Quoted, “Nevada Gaming Control Board Site May Have Been Hacked,” *Bonus.com*, January 29, 2024
- Author, “New Cybersecurity Regulations from the Nevada Gaming Commission,” *Communiqué* magazine, Clark County Bar Association publication, November 2023
- Roundtable Leader, Sip & Social event hosted by Global Gaming Women, Global Gaming Expo, October 12, 2023
- Panel Presenter, “Self-regulation for Emerging Gaming Verticals, including Esports”, International Masters of Gaming Law Spring Conference, April 26-28, 2023
- Panel Presenter, “The Future of eSports in Nevada’s Gaming Industry: Betting on the Next Generation”, Gaming Law Conference 2022, Gaming Law Section of the State Bar of Nevada, November 18, 2022
- Author, “Recent Leadership and Position Changes within the Nevada Gaming Control Board,” *Nevada Gaming Lawyer*, September 2022
- Author, “Nevada Changes Restricted Gaming License Requirements for Individuals,” *McDonald Carano Legal Update*, June 1, 2022
- Contributor, *The WRIT*, Millennial Minute column, Washoe County Bar Association publication
- Author, *Chapter 568: Saving our Voiceless Companions, One Life at a Time*, 48 U. Pac. L. Rev. 475 (2016) (University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law)

## Professional Affiliations

- Executive Committee, Gaming Law Section, State Bar of Nevada (2025-2028)
- Board of Directors, Global Gaming Women (effective January 1, 2026)
- Chair, Nominating and Governance Committee, Board of Directors, Global Gaming Women (effective January 1, 2026)
- General Counsel to the Board of Directors, Global Gaming Women (January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2025)
- Moderator, Professional Mentorship and Career Development Lean-In Circle, Global Gaming Women
- Communications and Content Liaison, Marketing Committee, Global Gaming Women
- Member, International Masters of Gaming Law
- Member, International Association of Gaming Advisors
- Member, Women in Sports and Events, Las Vegas Chapter

- Member, Young Lawyers Division, American Bar Association
- Member, Northern Nevada Women Lawyers Association
- Member, Washoe County Bar Association
- Member, Clark County Bar Association
- Member, State Bar of California

**McDonald Carano LLP** ([www.mcdonaldcarano.com](http://www.mcdonaldcarano.com))

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