



Partner

Dennis Gutwald

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Office: 702.873.4100 | Direct: 702.257.4517

Areas of Practice

Gaming & Administrative Law

Bar Admissions

Nevada

Education

J.D., UNLV William S. Boyd
School of Law, 2003

B.S., University of Nevada, Las
Vegas, 1986

Professional Background

Dennis Gutwald is a Partner in McDonald Carano's Gaming & Administrative Law Group. He has more than 20 years of experience counseling premier gaming companies, banks, investment companies, and high-net-worth and high-profile individuals navigate all aspects of gaming law in Nevada as well as multi-jurisdictional gaming law requirements throughout the U.S.

Dennis' extensive experience includes coordinating the license applications for the acquisition of gaming companies in hundreds of jurisdictions, establishing eSports contests for cash in a Nevada casino, preparing the gaming, liquor and other business applications for the ground-up development of resort hotels and preserving grandfathered liquor and gaming land use entitlements.

He regularly counsels companies that conduct retail liquor sales in Nevada, including nightclubs, restaurants and taverns. Dennis advises clients pursuing liquor, land use, and cannabis regulatory approvals both locally and at the state level in Nevada. He has assisted numerous clients in obtaining the requisite gaming and liquor regulatory approvals required for acquisition or ground-up development of many major casino resort hotels and other liquor, gaming, and cannabis businesses. Dennis's comprehensive experience includes preserving grandfathered liquor and gaming land use entitlements and licenses. His extensive knowledge in this area has allowed many dormant gaming properties throughout the state to preserve grandfathered rights, despite closures lasting many years.

Prior to becoming a gaming attorney, Dennis spent seven years as a Senior Agent in the Investigations Division of the Nevada Gaming Control Board, which regulates the State of Nevada's multi-billion-dollar gaming industry. He provides clients with unique insight into the inner workings of gaming regulatory agencies and particularly what they look for in a gaming application and how they conduct investigations. He is valued for his ability to skillfully guide clients from start to finish through the application and investigation process, all while establishing trust and rapport with regulators. Dennis is well-known for his ability to help clients navigate the complex regulatory approval process as they submit all necessary applications and undergo investigations, simplifying the transaction process and skillfully guiding clients through investigations from start to finish.

Dennis received his Bachelor of Science in Finance from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, in 1986 and earned his J.D. from the University of Nevada, William S. Boyd School of Law, in 2003. He is an active board member of Keep Memory Alive, a nonprofit organization created to increase awareness and raise funds for the research, diagnosis, and treatment of brain disorders in close affiliation with the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health.

Offices

LAS VEGAS

2300 West Sahara Avenue, Suite 1200
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RENO

100 West Liberty Street, Tenth Floor
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Representative Engagement

- Represent an active institutional investor based in New York as its outside gaming counsel and handle on a national basis all of its gaming regulatory filings required in connection with its investments in the stock of various publicly traded companies involved in the gaming industry in the U.S.
- Represent a Nevada-based national gaming company in connection with all of its Nevada gaming regulatory compliance requirements, and regularly represent executives in connection with the handling of their findings of suitability/licensing applications and hearings before the Nevada Gaming Control Board and the Nevada Gaming Commission.
- Represent two downtown Las Vegas hotel/casinos in connection with all of their Nevada gaming regulatory compliance requirements, including preparing the gaming application for the development of a new casino resort hotel planned for downtown Las Vegas.
- Represent a publicly traded company headquartered in Tokyo, Japan, in connection with all of its Nevada gaming regulatory compliance and reporting requirements. The company is a developer, manufacturer and seller of pachislot and pachinko machines and other game machines and peripheral equipment in Japan and worldwide, and a developer and owner of casino resort businesses.
- Assisted an Indian tribe in evaluating and determining ownership structure alternatives for the acquisition of various casino resorts.
- Assisted a major foreign gaming operator in assessing regulatory and approval requirements for the acquisition of an international Nevada-based gaming company.
- Assisted a large gaming device manufacturer in obtaining Nevada gaming manufacturers and distributors licenses.
- Advised a sportsbook and resort casino operator regarding the regulatory requirements and approvals required to integrate their operations nationally.
- Counseled a private equity company with a passive investment in a casino company in a lawsuit by the casino company attempting to force the private equity company to release confidential information to it based on alleged gaming regulatory requirements.
- Provided regulatory guidance for the major expansion of a casino resort and the development of an additional casino establishment in Nevada.
- Prepared gaming license applications for a company to open or acquire nine gaming operations in Nevada.
- Prepared gaming applications for multiple states and coordinated their submission for an entity with a substantial interest in a national casino resort company,
- Counseled a private equity company with a passive investment in a casino company in successfully addressing regulators' concerns that passive investment restrictions were not being followed and licensure was required.
- Advised a gaming licensee in avoiding major fines after major regulatory and criminal violations occurred at its establishment.

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Awards and Recognition

- *The Best Lawyers in America*® – Gaming Law (2020-2022)
- *The Best Lawyers in America*® – Administrative and Regulatory Law (2022)
- *Vegas Inc.* – “Top Lawyers” in Gaming Law (2020)
- *Nevada Business Magazine* – “Legal Elite” (2017)
- Martindale-Hubbell AV® Preeminent™ Peer Review Rating
- 50 Hours Club, Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada’s Pro Bono Project (2010)