

By: Santiago Asensi
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“LEY DEL JUEGO”, A NEW PUBLICATION FROM THE INTERNATIONAL MASTERS OF GAMING LAW

The “International Masters of Gaming Law” (IMGL) has nothing in common with those associations that don’t seem to have a purpose and whose members never seem to do anything much. On the contrary, it is a very living organisation, growing and welcoming new members day by day, organising conferences and other top-level events. A quick peek at the member list shows that IMGL is no ordinary association.

One of the most pleasant surprises about IMGL is its prolific activity in the field of publications on gaming law. These include:

*Casino Lawyer, concentrating on North American gaming law. It is published twice yearly and read by 16,500 subscribers.

*Canadian Gaming Lawyer. Published twice yearly and reaching a total of 4000 subscribers, Canadian Gaming Lawyer offers a legal overview of gaming in Canada’s 10 provinces and 3 territories.

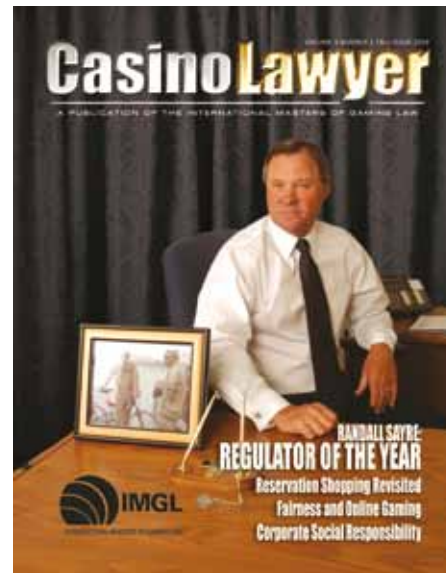
*European Gaming Lawyer. Published twice yearly, this journal records the big legal changes taking place in European gaming law.

IMGL also ensures that their journals are present at the main gaming conferences around the world: G2E, Canadian Gaming Summit, EIG, EGB, ELA, IGE (ICE), etc., thus reaching the maximum number of persons involved in this fascinating industry.

However, these are not IMGL’s only activities in the field of gaming publications: the UNLY Gaming Law Journal is a joint project between IMGL and the William S. Boyd School of Law. The first University-sponsored journal dedicated exclusively to gaming law, it will be published twice-yearly, the first issue being ready in 2010.

This year, IMGL, in collaboration with Drake University Law School, published the *Gaming Law Symposium* in the prestigious Drake Law Review, which has been mentioned more than once in rulings of the United States Supreme Court.

Similar collaborations with other law schools have included joint publications with the Thomas M. Cooley Law Review, the John Marshall Law Review and the Mississippi Law Journal, published by the University of Mississippi. IMGL members also systematically publish articles in other prestigious magazines and journals, with particular mention,



I feel, being due to the enormous dedication and commitment shown by Anthony Cabot, Professor I. Nelson Rose, Michael Lipton and Robert W. Stocker II, current IMGL Chairman.

However, as I said above, IMGL is first and foremost a living association, always willing to accept new challenges as part of its mission. In this regard, the association is now preparing the launch of a new Spanish-language journal, “La Ley del Juego” (The Law of the Game), the title chosen by my good friend and colleague Alfredo Lazcano from Mexico and myself.

The decision to launch “La Ley del Juego” is, I feel, the right one. It is beyond discussion that English is the language which dominates most international gaming conferences but, at the same time, we cannot ignore the fact that Spanish is a very robust language, spoken by more than 450 million persons worldwide.

I also believe that the timing is right, in view of the legislative changes occurring or shortly to occur in Spanish-speaking gaming markets. As with many other European Union countries, Spain is currently immersed in regulating the online gaming sector. The Gaming Sector Commission is currently working on the project, which will take approximately 18 months. Likewise, the State Lotteries Association is laying the foundation for a full transformation, which will enable it to take part in the market with new products, means and technology from 2010 onwards.

Latin America is, in general, a mature market with regard to traditional gaming. However, online gaming is a vast unexplored territory. Many operators have their eye on this market and its population of 500 million (including Brazil). On the other hand, the market is heterogeneous from a legislative point of view, each country following its own route, but where a chain reaction, such as that currently occurring in the European Union, would not be such a surprise.

While it is true that the Mercosur Treaty has not been incorporated into Latin-American national legislations to the same extent as the Maastricht Treaty in Europe and, in practical terms, its law cannot be considered common to several countries, it is no less true that media such as the Internet and particularly the common language can play a key role in developing the legislative process.

These are the circumstances surrounding the debut of “La Ley del Juego”, which will be launched in January 2010 to coincide with the International Gaming Expo (IGE). The first issue will concentrate on three major gaming jurisdictions - Argentina, Spain and Mexico.

I would like to urge all lawyers and gaming regulators interested in contributing to future issues to contact either Alfredo Lazcano (als@lazcanosamano.com) or me; we will be delighted to receive articles for this new IMGL publication.

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