

**INDIAN GAMING LAW
AND POLICY**

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PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Legalized gambling is prevalent in popular culture today. One can hardly flip the television dial without seeing a show glamorizing Las Vegas, featuring a high-stakes poker tournament, or depicting tribal casinos. Indian gaming seems to be in the news all the time, whether the story is about a state seeking a cut of a tribe's casino profits or a tribe's attempts to acquire new trust land to open a casino. Yet is surprisingly difficult to find accurate and complete accounts of Indian gaming—how it came about, what it is, how it is regulated, and why it is so highly politicized.

The law and policy of Indian gaming are perhaps the most complicated and politically fraught of any area of tribal-state-federal relations today. Can a legal practitioner negotiate the parameters of the law of Indian gaming without delving into the politics that create the law and shape its application? Can a policymaker effectively and fairly weigh policy options without comprehending the complex legal and regulatory environment of tribal gaming? And can anyone fully understand Indian gaming without being aware of the significance of tribal sovereignty as it relates to the law, politics, and policy of Indian gaming?

This book grew out of our own search for materials that straightforwardly and fully explained the law and policy of Indian gaming. By assembling such information in a single text, we hope to provide a readily accessible source for practitioners and policymakers, students and scholars, and anyone else interested in Indian gaming.

Our collaboration on Indian gaming issues began almost a decade ago. We have found that our respective disciplines—law, and political science and public administration—perhaps uniquely positioned us to take an interdisciplinary approach to researching what inherently is a field that crosses disciplines. At the University of North Dakota, we founded the Institute for the Study of Tribal Gaming Law and Policy to facilitate quality research and informed pub-

lic discourse on Indian gaming!¹ We believe that accurate and complete information, along with a foundational respect for tribal sovereignty, should drive the law and policy of Indian gaming.

* * *

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Kathryn R.L. Rand
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1. The Institute is a component of the University of North Dakota School of Law's Northern Plains Indian Law Center. See Institute for the Study of Tribal Gaming Law and Policy, <http://www.lawund.nodak.edu/npilc/gaming/index.php> (last visited September 1, 2005).