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# The \_\_\_\_\_ MICHIGAN GAMING \_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter



## MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT ISSUES RULING ON CONSTITUTIONAL BALLOT PROPOSALS

On Wednesday, September 5, 2012, the Michigan Supreme Court filed an opinion and order in the case of four pending ballot proposals that seek to amend the state constitution. As part of its ruling, the Court held that a proposed amendment that would authorize an additional eight commercial casinos throughout the state did not meet the technical requirements to be placed on the November 2012 ballot. Because of this failure, the Court refused to issue an order of mandamus to the Board of State Canvassers directing the board to include the proposal on the ballot.

The opinion focuses on creating a clear set of guidelines to provide “the certainty and precision that is reasonably possible [to determine] what is required to properly petition to amend the Constitution.” In this respect, the Court focused on defining when a proposal would “alter or abrogate” an existing section of the Constitution. If a proposal would be considered to alter or abrogate an existing section of the Constitution under the opinion’s definitions, then “the petition supporters must fully comply with the requirement that the petition republish any existing constitutional provision that the proposed amendment, if adopted, would alter or abrogate.”

At issue with the proposed casino expansion ballot initiative was whether the initiative’s requirement that each new casino be granted a liquor license from the state altered or abrogated the Constitution’s provision that provides that the liquor control commission “shall exercise complete control of the alcoholic beverage traffic within this state.” Citizens for More Michigan Jobs, the creator of the proposal, argued that the proposal did not alter or abrogate the existing Constitution because the language did not render the existing provision wholly inoperative. However, the Court disagreed, holding that “[b]ecause the complete control necessarily communicates the exclusivity of control, any infringement on that control abrogates that exclusivity.” Because the Court held that the proposal abrogated existing

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portions of the Constitution, the Court concluded that the proposal did not fully comply with the republishing requirements and, therefore, was not eligible to be placed onto the November ballot.

In addition to the ruling on the casino expansion proposal, the Court directed the Board of State Canvassers “to proceed as necessary to place the proposed constitutional amendment on the November 2012 election ballot” for the proposed amendments regarding voter approval for international bridge projects and for a supermajority vote in the legislature to raise taxes. Regarding the proposal to protect certain collective bargaining rights, the Court refused to overturn a lower court ruling that directed the Board of Canvassers to place the proposal on the November 2012 ballot. As such, the casino expansion proposal will be the only one of the four proposals considered in the opinion that will not be on the ballot.

## **MGM GRAND DETROIT TO ADD TWO NEW RESTAURANTS**

On Tuesday September 4, 2012, MGM Grand Detroit announced that it will be partnering with Master Chef Wolfgang Puck to develop two new restaurants – Wolfgang Puck Pizzeria & Cucina and Wolfgang Puck Steak.

“It’s great to return to Detroit and to the MGM Grand,” said Wolfgang Puck. “I have a long-standing relationship with MGM Resorts International and strong partnership with MGM Grand Detroit. Detroit has a lot of great restaurants and it’s an excellent place for us to be. We’re looking forward to bringing two new concepts to locals and visitors.”

The Wolfgang Puck Pizzeria & Cucina will replace the current SALTWATER restaurant while Wolfgang Puck Steak will be in the space now hosting BOURBON STEAK, both operated by Chef Michael Mina.

“This is tremendous news for both MGM Grand Detroit and the city,” said Steve Zanella, general manager of MGM Grand Detroit. “We are constantly listening to our guests, reviewing our product offerings and reinvesting in our property. We are very excited to partner again with Wolfgang for the openings of his new restaurants.”

Both Wolfgang Puck restaurants will be led by Detroit native Chef Marc Djozlija. Chef Djozlija is the former chef of Wolfgang Puck Grille and has more than 10 years of experience working with the Wolfgang Puck Fine Dining Group. He began his career with Wolfgang Puck in 1992 in Wolfgang’s popular Spago restaurant in Las Vegas.

## **AGA LAUNCHES NEW GLOBAL GAMING WOMEN WEBSITE**

On Thursday, September 06, 2012, The American Gaming Association launched a new website for its Global Gaming Women (GGW) development initiative. The GGW was launched at the Global Gaming conference last year in Las Vegas Nevada and was created to, “allow women in the international gaming industry to share ideas, discuss best practices and take advantage of mentorship opportunities.” The new website will be used as an interactive tool to help the members of GGW connect and share information worldwide.

GGW Co-chair Patti Hurt, president and CEO of International Game Technology, also included that the website is, “a great way to cultivate the next generation of female gaming industry leaders.” One of the key features of the new site will be titled, “Coffee Break: Gaming leadership strategies in 1 minute or less,” which will showcase current female gaming industry leaders offering advice and insight on career and business in an easy-to-access format.

For more information on the American Gaming Association development initiative for Global Gaming Women please access the link, [www.globalgamingwomen.org](http://www.globalgamingwomen.org), or follow the GGW group on LinkedIn at <http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=3808485&mostPopular=&trk=tyah>

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## **AGA ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF ALL IN FOR RESPONSIBLE GAMING CONTEST**

On Tuesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012, the American Gaming Association (AGA) announced the winners of the “All In For Responsible Gaming,” contest. The winners were announced in conjunction with the annual Responsible Gaming Education Week (RGEW) 2012.

Gaming employees were invited to create a poster, essay or video explaining, “What Responsible Gaming Means To Me.” The contest was designed to “reflect the personal nature or responsible gaming for casino and gaming employees worldwide.” RGEW was developed in 1998 and is aimed at heightened awareness of responsible gaming and disordered gambling amount employees, patrons, and the general public.

For more information about the AGA and to find the winners of each category please use the link [www.americangaming.org/AllInContest](http://www.americangaming.org/AllInContest), or contact Brian Lehman, Communications Manager of the AGA, at 202-552-2680.

## **GLOBAL GAMING EXPO EARLY BIRD SPECIALS EXPIRE MONDAY**

Early Bird Discounts for the 2012 Global Gaming Expo (G2E), to be held at The Sands Expo and Convention Center in Las Vegas, Nevada, from October 1-4, expire on Monday, September 10.

Early Bird Discounts include group discounts, Native American Casino Registration packages and special hotel and travel deals which registrants may take advantage of on the G2E website.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to apply for Express Badges for G2E 2012. Expo organizers say the new badges will expedite registration and check-in time, thus creating more ease and convenience.

Over 30,000 gaming professionals from around the world are scheduled to attend this year’s G2E

from all gaming industry trades and sectors. To register, or for more information about G2E, please visit [www.globalgamingexpo.com](http://www.globalgamingexpo.com).