



ICLG

The International Comparative Legal Guide to:

Gambling 2016

2nd Edition

A practical cross-border insight into gambling law

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Shaping the Future of Gaming Law

International Masters of Gaming Law



Dr. Joerg Hofmann



Michael E. Zatezalo

When asked to write the opening chapter of *The International Comparative Legal Guide to: Gambling* in last year's first edition on behalf of the IMGL, I was very honored. I welcomed the initiative of creating such a guide and found that it perfectly contributed to the IMGL's goal of "Shaping the Future of Gaming Law" as it is informative and of a very high standard. This year I am not only honored to contribute the opening chapter to the second edition of *The International Comparative Legal Guide to: Gambling* on behalf of the IMGL, but it also gives me great pleasure to be writing the chapter with Michael E. Zatezalo, a trusted friend and the incoming President of the IMGL.

The International Comparative Legal Guide to: Gambling brings together the knowledge and expertise of leading gaming lawyers from jurisdictions all over the world. It may therefore be understood as a useful guide and first introduction to gambling regulation in various jurisdictions and as a directory on trusted law firms that specialize in the field. As the President and incoming President of the IMGL, we are of course delighted to find that many – if not the majority – of the authors who contributed to the guide are IMGL members.

The IMGL is committed to being the pre-eminent global gaming law networking and educational organization. Its members dedicate a lot of their time and energy to maintaining, encouraging and participating in an open and international dialogue between regulators, practitioners of the law, compliance officers, accountants, educators, gaming executives and other representatives of the industry. Our IMGL conferences, which are held twice a year, the IMGL Masterclasses, which take place at major gaming events, our members' participation in international industry-sponsored conferences, and our members' contributions to high-quality publications, such as *The International Comparative Legal Guide to: Gambling* and IMGL's own publications, play an important role in this.

The IMGL currently consists of nearly 400 members from 43 countries and 34 states and territories in the United States, and is constantly expanding. By recruiting new experts from emerging gaming jurisdictions as members and widening our global presence, we, the IMGL, clearly demonstrate that we are interested in shaping the future of gaming law globally. The IMGL recently launched the first issue of the *Asian Gaming Lawyer* in order to provide a new platform for sharing information on the most up-to-date developments and legal challenges of the gaming industry in Asia and the Pacific Region. The *Asian Gaming Lawyer* marks a perfect

addition to IMGL's already existing publications, i.e. the *American Gaming Lawyer*, *European Gaming Lawyer*, *Canadian Gaming Lawyer* and *La Ley del Juego* (our South American publication). In October 2015, the IMGL reached out to Central/South America by hosting its first ever conference in this region in Lima, Peru. The conference was also IMGL's first ever conference to be organized and held jointly with the IAGR (International Association of Gaming Regulators), which not only provided an exceptional opportunity for regulators and industry experts to discuss many controversial issues, but also showcased IMGL's commitment to providing the highest standard and quality in their conferences and being at the forefront of the latest developments in international gambling law.

Much like the IMGL, *The International Comparative Legal Guide to: Gambling* has been successful in being truly international and of a high quality. The first edition of the guide consisted of contributions from 24 different countries and six different US states from leading gaming experts and we are very pleased to find that this second edition was able to build on this, making *The International Comparative Legal Guide to: Gambling 2016* an even more comprehensive multi-jurisdictional overview of gambling-related laws and regulations.

We hope that *The International Comparative Legal Guide to: Gambling* will continue in this tradition and will further encourage the international exchange of knowledge and expertise among gaming law experts and industry players.

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Dr. Joerg Hofmann is the President of the International Masters of Gaming Law (IMGL), the pre-eminent global gambling law networking and educational organisation shaping the future of gaming law. He is a senior partner with Melchers Law Firm in Germany with offices in Heidelberg, Berlin and Frankfurt, and the group leader of the firm's Gaming & Betting Law Practice Group. Joerg has been practising gaming law since the mid-nineties and is one of Germany's leading gaming lawyers. Since 2011, Joerg has annually been ranked as a "Leading Individual" in Gaming & Gambling by Chambers Global Guide. Joerg acts regularly as speaker and moderator in international gaming law conferences and serves as a member of the editorial board of "Gaming Law Review and Economics".

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