



OCCC ON DUTY

From the Ohio Casino Control Commission Division of Enforcement



MICHAEL MASTERSON NAMED DIRECTOR OF ENFORCEMENT

Michael Masterson has been named Director of Enforcement for the Ohio Casino Control Commission.

Mike first joined the Commission as a BCI Agent through an agreement with the Attorney General's Office. He was assigned to the OCCC as the Gaming Agent Supervisor of the Toledo Office and also served as the Deputy Director of Enforcement. He also helped facilitate the hiring and training of gaming agents as the Commission built out the Enforcement Division. Mike retired from BCI in 2013.



With his 30-year track record in law enforcement with experience in narcotics, organized crime, and gaming crime investigations, Mike has been instrumental in the success of the Enforcement Division, and we appreciate his service to the OCCC and the State of Ohio.

Ohio Legislature Passes Bill Making Structuring a Felony in Ohio

Commission Gaming Agents have observed instances at all four Ohio casinos where individuals attempted to manipulate and avoid federal and state reporting requirements involving large cash transactions. Also known as structuring, this action is an often-used method of money laundering that can also be indicative of other criminal activity such as drug trafficking. Although penalties existed at the federal level for structuring, the OCCC lacked effective tools at the state level to discourage this type of activity.

In 2013, the Commission approached members of the Ohio General Assembly regarding an amendment to the Casino Control Act – one that would make structuring transactions in a casino a felony in Ohio. We began working with Senators Larry Obhof and Jim Hughes on Senate Bill 141, which makes structuring at a casino a fifth-degree felony for a first offense and a fourth-degree felony on subsequent offenses. The bill passed the Senate last June, and was approved by the Ohio House in December. It will become effective Ohio law in March.

With the passage of SB 141, Ohio is one of the first states in the nation to criminalize structuring – sending a strong message that we are serious about keeping organized criminal activity out of our casinos.

The OCCC Division of Enforcement is responsible for enforcing ORC 3772.99, which includes criminal statutes that relate to casinos and casino gaming. In addition, the Enforcement Division has filed numerous criminal charges statewide since Ohio's casinos opened in 2012.

Criminal Cases - All Ohio Casinos (May 2012 - Dec. 2014)	
Gaming Crimes (including Bribery)	165
Theft/Property Crimes	
Theft/Petty Theft/Grand Theft	
Receiving stolen property	
Criminal Mischief	
Unauthorized use of property/vehicle	161
Possession of criminal tools	
Safecracking	
Robbery	
Vandalism/Criminal damaging	
Criminal Trespassing/Complicity to Trespass (includes VEP violators)	181
Underage Violations	
Underage entry/attempted entry	
Aiding underage entry	
Underage consumption	132
Furnishing alcohol to underage	
Prohibitions (Fake/False ID)	
Financial/Fraud Crimes	
Counterfeit	
Forgery	
Falsification	45
Fraud	
Misuse of credit cards	
Tampering with records/evidence	
Money laundering/structuring	
Drug/Weapons Crimes	
Narcotics/drug possession	14
CCW/weapons violation	
Weapons under disability	
Other	
Assault	
Domestic Violence	
Endangering Children	
Menacing	54
Harrassment	
Disorderly and/or intoxicated	
Obstructing official business	
Inducing Panic	
Resisting arrest	

Agents Assist in Raids of Suspected Illegal Gambling Operations

In December, Gaming Agents from our Columbus and Toledo offices joined the Attorney General's Office, BCI and other local law enforcement agencies in a series of raids targeting suspected illegal gambling operations in Northwestern Ohio. The six businesses targeted were allegedly paying out cash prizes in violation of Ohio law.

In all, more than 500 electronic gaming machines and \$72,000 in cash was seized by authorities.

Cooperative efforts like this highlight the need to assure Ohioans that all gaming conducted in the state is done according to the law.

Voluntary Exclusion Program

Prior to the opening of casinos in Ohio, state officials wanted to ensure that prevention and treatment programs were in place to address those with a gambling problem.

As part of its responsible gambling efforts, the Ohio Casino Control Commission administers a statewide Voluntary Exclusion Program (VEP), which provides individuals the ability to ban themselves from Ohio casinos. To date, more than 1,200 individuals have signed up for the program. A person may self-impose a ban of one year, five years or their lifetime.

Individuals who wish to sign up for the VEP can do so at the Commission's Columbus Office or at any one of the four casinos. Once a person is enrolled in the program, casino operators are to make all reasonable attempts to stop direct marketing efforts to the individual and will not cash a check or extend credit.

While participants in the VEP are only excluded from entering a casino facility in Ohio, the casino operators may have their own policies that extend the ban to properties in other states and/or jurisdictions.

If a person in the VEP violates the program and enters a casino, they can be charged with trespassing and any winnings are subject to forfeiture.

More information about the VEP can be found at the Commission's website: www.casinocontrol.ohio.gov or by calling Laura Clemens, the Responsible Gambling Program Coordinator, at 614-387-5848.

OCCC in the News

Participants in Rewards Scam at Cincinnati Casino Sentenced

An employee at Horseshoe Casino Cincinnati who issued more than \$48,000 in free slot play without authorization pled guilty to two felony charges in August and was sentenced to five years probation. The employee would create reward cards under fake names and then give them to two individuals, who were found guilty of theft and attempted casino theft for their roles in the scam.

In addition to the criminal penalties, the now former casino employee had their license revoked, and was added to the state's Involuntary Exclusion List for their actions.

Man Indicted on More Than 100 Counts of Cheating

A Cleveland man has been charged with 139 counts of casino cheating and one count of grand theft after he allegedly cheated at blackjack while at the Horseshoe Casino Cleveland. His case is pending in Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court.

Convicted Cheater Added to Involuntary Exclusion List

Ellis Quinn, Jr., of Tennessee was placed on Ohio's Involuntary Exclusion List by members of the Ohio Casino Control Commission in November after he was observed cheating at the Hollywood Casinos in Toledo and Columbus. Quinn was convicted in June of one count of casino cheating and sentenced to one year in prison for pastposting bets while playing craps at the Hollywood Casino Toledo.

Quinn recently reached a plea deal in his case regarding similar behavior at the Hollywood Casino Columbus. He was sentenced to an additional 18 months in prison and ordered to pay more than \$2,100 in restitution. Quinn has also been convicted of casino cheating in Missouri and placed on that state's Involuntary Exclusion List.

Dealer at Hollywood Casino Columbus Indicted

A former poker dealer at the Hollywood Casino Columbus has been charged with 11 felony counts of casino cheating for stealing more than \$600 in chips while working. The case is pending in Franklin County Common Pleas Court.



Contact Us

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Different agencies in Ohio are responsible for enforcing the state's gaming laws.

Use the contacts below if you have questions or need information regarding a particular type of gaming.



Ohio Casino Control Commission:
Casino gaming, skill games
614-387-5858



Ohio Attorney General's Office:
Bingo, charitable gaming
1-800-282-0515



Ohio Lottery Commission:
State Lottery, video lottery terminals
216-774-5900



Ohio State Racing Commission:
Horse Racing
614-466-2757

OCCE On Duty is a publication of the Ohio Casino Control Commission Division of Enforcement. Questions or comments can be directed to **Jaymi Reynolds** (Jaymi.Reynolds@casinocontrol.ohio.gov) or **Jessica Franks** (Jessica.Franks@casinocontrol.ohio.gov)

Report A Gaming Crime

If you suspect or have witnessed a gaming-related crime, please contact our office at **(614) 387-5858**.

You can also report a gaming crime anonymously using our website: www.casinocontrol.ohio.gov.

LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING FUND

As part of the constitutional amendment authorizing casino gaming in Ohio, 2 percent of casino tax revenues is deposited into the Ohio Law Enforcement Training Fund. Money from the fund is used to to enhance public safety by providing training opportunities to law enforcement personnel across Ohio.

Amount Deposited in 2014: \$5,446,481

Total Amount Deposited to Date: \$13,032,098

*Note: Figures from the Ohio Department of Taxation. Deposits made on a quarterly basis.