



Governor Bill Richardson Appoints Judge Tony Knott to New Mexico Gaming Control Board

Governor also appoints Carla Lopez as Chair of GCB

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SANTA FE - Governor Bill Richardson today announced he has appointed Lea County Magistrate Judge Tony Knott to the New Mexico Gaming Control Board (GCB). Judge Knott will fill the vacancy created by last month's sudden death of GCB Chair and law enforcement representative Jack Harkleroad.

Judge Knott has served as a Magistrate Court Judge since January 2004, and will resign that position in June to join the GCB. He has extensive law enforcement experience, serving in many capacities in the Hobbs Police Department, including Patrol Officer, Detective, Captain, and Deputy Chief, before becoming Chief in 1997.

"Judge Knott brings a wealth of law enforcement experience and history of community activism to the Gaming Control Board," said Governor Bill Richardson. "New Mexico is fortunate to have someone of his caliber so willing to serve his fellow citizens on this important board."

Judge Knott's many professional activities include service on the Drug Enforcement Advisory Council, Lea County Drug Task Force Board (Chairman), Region Six Drug Task Force Board (Chairman), State High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Board (Chairman), Southwest Border High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Board, Law Enforcement Executive Development Association, International Association of Chiefs of Police, New Mexico Police Chiefs Association Board, and Leadership New Mexico Alumni Association.

He is also an Associate for the FBI National Academy and the New Mexico FBI National Academy.

“As regulators in the gaming industry, we are delighted to welcome someone of Knott’s professionalism and experience into the agency,” said Executive Director Brett F. Woods.

Governor Richardson also announced he has named current GCB member Carla C. Lopez to Chair the group. Lopez is a Certified Public Accountant and attorney, and fills the CPA position on the board.

“I am honored that the Governor has appointed me to this position. I know that Chairman Harkleroad has left behind some very big shoes for me to fill and he will be sorely missed,” said Board Chair Carla Lopez. “As Chair of the Board, I intend to continue demonstrating my commitment to the State of New Mexico in promoting the Board’s mission to uphold the integrity of gaming.”

The New Mexico Gaming Control Board was established by statute in 1997 and funded during the 1998 legislative session. It began operations in June of 1998. The Board is responsible for regulating legalized gambling at licensed racetracks and qualified veteran's and fraternal organizations of New Mexico. The Board is also responsible for overseeing New Mexico’s tribal gaming compacts through the appointment of the state gaming representative. The Board has 57 employees, which include licensing and background specialists, compliance auditors, attorneys, and certified peace officers.

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