

MADMUN 2024

Las Vegas Casino Association

(LVCA)

Chairs: Sofia Suazo & Ava Vincent



Introduction to Your Chairs and Sims:

Hi everybody! My name is Ava Vincent and I'm a senior at McFarland High School! I have been in ModelUN since my Freshman year, and this is my second year as the President of our MUN Club! A ModelUN fun fact about me in ModelUN is that I've won best delegate at Northwestern MUN two years in a row: my sophomore, and junior year! But, my favorite committee I've ever been in is Medici which was at University of Chicago! I'm super excited to chair LVCA because it's just such a fun committee idea, all these casinos having a voice will be fun to hear in committee and hearing you all debate these issues! Im super excited to chair this committee, and if you have any questions or concerns reach out to me or Sofia!

Contact: vincena@mcfds.org

Hello! I'm Sofia Suazo (she/her), and I am super excited to be one of your chairs for the Las Vegas Casino Association at MADMUN this year! I am a senior at Madison Country Day School, and this will be my 3rd year doing Model UN, but my first year chairing. One of my favorite Model UN memories was when I attended the Mexico City (MIMUN) conference and got to practice my Spanish-speaking skills a great deal! I chose to chair this committee because I enjoy exploring the ethics of the world around us, and I thought that the LVCA was the perfect way to continue to explore that interest as well as be in just a super fun committee idea overall! As a chair, I hope I can provide a great experience and foster insightful and diplomatic conversations between all of you on the topics. Please feel free to reach out to me or Ava with any questions. Can't wait to see you all soon!

Contact: sofia.suazo@madisoncountryday.org

Hi! I am Dima Llanos (she/her), and I will be one of your sims for the Las Vegas Casino Association! I am Middleton High School alumni and I currently attend UW Madison. I am so excited to see all your crisis notes, and hopefully give you guys a stimulating and exciting committee. I appreciate creative and chaotic crisis arcs, so hit me with your best shot! I remember what it's like being a newbie to both MUN and crisis committees, so feel free to reach out with any questions! My biggest priority is making sure the committee runs smoothly and is enjoyable for everyone, so don't feel like a bother if you choose to reach out. Can't wait to see you all soon!

Hi! I'm Crystal, a junior at Middleton High School and I'm super excited to be one of your sims for the Las Vegas Casino Association. This is my third year in Model UN, and although I joined just for fun, I've had some of the best experiences meeting new people and trying new things at conferences! I hope that as a sim I'll be able to create a super memorable experience at MADMUN this year for you all. We chose these topics because they're relevant and great subjects for debate. Please feel free to reach out with any questions, and I can't wait to meet you all!

Contact: crystalhuangwork@gmail.com

Letter from the Chair

Dear fellow delegates,

On behalf of our chairs and sims, we'd like to offer you our welcome to MADMUN 2024! This committee revolves around the booming casinos of Las Vegas, Nevada. It is also an intermediate committee, which means that there will be crisis updates, directives instead of resolutions and no back rooms so there'll be no crisis notes.

This is a unique committee setup, in which instead of people you're representing its casinos. For many of you, it could be your first, second or even last conference. However; if you have any questions, reach out to the chairs (Sofia & Ava) or the Sims (Crystal and Isabelle) with any questions regarding the backroom and frontroom.

The topics we have in this committee reflect the "War and Love" topic of the whole conference itself. With Topic A with the Ethicality of Las Vegas Weddings. We are looking for delegates to battle out with love, as it's a tradition for many people to get married in Vegas next to Elvis! Topic B is about addressing organized crime rates in these Casinos. With all the gambling, and drinking that is provided at these hotels people can get out of control. Which has been seen in casinos throughout the years, so bad that there has to be a number of security members. However; it doesn't always work.

It is up to you delegates to decide the fate of these Casinos, which is the staple of the Las Vegas Industry. Sofia and I will be looking for well researched arguments, lots of research around the topics, and creative solutions to each of these topics.

We can't wait to see you all!!

Committee Overview

The Las Vegas Casino Association (LVCA) serves the casino and gaming industry of Las Vegas, Nevada. In this committee you'll find that the LVCA focuses and allocates most of its time and resources into its regional and local influence vs its global influence, this is due to the nature of the LVCA serving the Las Vegas region, which is known for being a hotspot for hospitality, through the utilization of hotels/resorts, and gaming, in which gambling is heavily promoted.

Economics

This makes the LVCA a vital lucrative to driving the Las Vegas economy, as the casinos are able to bring in mass amounts of tourists and locals to the region, hence bringing in higher levels of income to the economy through casino marketing, promotion, and regional hospitality. Because of the economic and social importance of the LVCA in Las Vegas, this allows for Las Vegas casinos to hold solid power within the politics of Las Vegas.

Politics

Politically, the casinos are able to hold influence on regional legislation, especially if the legislation will influence the economic and social impact the casino sector brings to Las Vegas. In fact, similarly, the AGA, quotes on their own website "*AGA will continue to be a leading advocate for the industry by working with congressional members, the U.S. Department of Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service to ensure fair industry treatment specific to federal tax regulations.*" A significant moment the LVCA was able to advocate for itself in politics was in the early 2000's Gaming Tax Legislation, in which the LVCA advocated for taxes favorable to interests such as the gaming and hospitality sector growth of Las Vegas casinos. By solidifying its position in politics, it has been able to express and advocate for all LVCA interests and core missions in a political environment amongst political figures.

History of Las Vegas Casino Industry

Initially, Las Vegas began as an unflashy railroad town founded in 1905, most notably used as a stopover for trains traveling from Los Angeles, California to Salt Lake City, Utah. However, in 1931, the state of Nevada legislature voted to legalize gambling. The timing of the new enactment perfectly interconnected with the construction of the Hoover Dam, bringing in thousands of workers who utilized Las Vegas casinos as a means of workers' leisure. Along with this, the design of hotel-casinos were vital to the promotion and marketing of Las Vegas, as it helped create an image of Las Vegas as a haven for fun and gaming during vacations. The most notable hotel-casino being the "El Rancho Vegas Resort." The El Rancho casino-resort was the first successful hotel-casino outside of Downtown Las Vegas, and its creation was pivotal to creating a domino-effect of the construction of more hotel-casinos through Las Vegas Mobsters were also vital to the growth of the Las Vegas Casino industry, as they built large influxes of casinos in order to avoid paying taxes.



Figure 1: Photograph of Hotel “El Rancho”



Figure 2: Photograph of significant mob figure, Benjamin “Bugsy” Siegel

Topic A: Ethicality of Las Vegas Weddings

The Convenience of Obtaining a Marriage License in Las Vegas

Introduction

In Las Vegas, obtaining wedding licenses is marketed as quick and fun, and pushes couples to engage and buy into luxurious and thrilling themed wedding packages. Most wedding venues within Vegas, such as “themed chapels” will offer same-day weddings, raising the question of how ethical are Las Vegas weddings? Since 1953, Las Vegas has been titled the “marriage capital of the world,” and rightfully so. On average, around 100,000 weddings are hosted by the state of Nevada each year.

Divorce Rates and Marriage Responsibilities

As referenced in the Las Vegas Casino history section, with the industrial growth of casinos through the design of the hotel-casino hybrid, casino’s have been able to market towards couples from all over the nation who seek the thrill of a quick and fun Las Vegas wedding, and push for couples to come celebrate with them in their resorts and partake in gaming and other amenities. This effect has portrayed Las Vegas weddings more so as a fun activity to partake in rather than an actual licenced act. With the cohesion of simple weddings and a fun vacation in Las Vegas casinos, more and more couples have jumped into marriages but have not fully

comprehended and thought of the responsibilities and aftermath of all the fun in Vegas that comes with marriage, therefore contributing to higher divorce rates especially within the Las Vegas region. (4.5 divorces per 1,000 marriages)

Self-Expression and Freedom

However, on the other hand, the simplicity of Las Vegas weddings allow couples to have more freedom and mobility to get married on their own terms and timing in a simplistic and cheap manner in chapels, which also allows for more room to invest in a LVCA wedding package or stay. It also allows for people who wouldn't be able to afford a wedding ceremony in a traditional setting, a cheap alternative. Las Vegas capitalizes itself on its ability to be a getaway for tourists and for them to feed into their wildest dreams and desires, which is why on the vice versa side of things, tourists who may not have come into Las Vegas planning to get married, may end up suddenly having an Elvis Presley themed chapel wedding due to just seeing the option being available.

Commodification

Las Vegas Casinos have watched the pattern of weddings in Nevada and have turned it into a consumer product and commodified it, allocating more resources and time into the marketing of casino wedding packages and resorts. In addition, chapels have appealed to customers by theming their venues and even offering couples to be married by impersonators of celebrities such as Elvis Presley. Commodification has played a large role in attracting people on a local, national and even on a global level.

Marriage License in Las Vegas: Procedure

In Las Vegas, a marriage license costs \$102 and wedding packages lasting as short as 15 minutes can go for \$99 dollars. In order to obtain a marriage license in Las Vegas, “

1. *You must be at least 18 years old.*
2. *You must provide government-issued identification to prove your name and age.*
3. *You must not be currently married.*
4. *You must not be nearer to kin than second cousins or cousins of half-blood.”*
according to the Clark County page.



As both the Clark County office and most chapels are open till midnight, it is extremely accessible for couples to “walk-in” and obtain a wedding license and partake in a wedding ceremony. According to the New York Times, “The Clark County Marriage License Bureau is open from 8 a.m. until midnight, every day, and gives out about 219 licenses a day.” Along with this, casinos market specifically towards the rush of couples suddenly getting married, and appeal to couples with fun themed-gaming and resorts for them to celebrate their newly wed lives together.

Legislature and Milestones

- **1930's:** Nevada becomes one of the easiest states to get married in and revokes requirements to take a blood test or wait through the waiting period in order to receive a marriage license.
- **Early 2000's:** Las Vegas Wedding Chamber of Commerce was founded to work alongside the Office of The County Clerk
- **Since October 2014:** Clark County has issued more than 30,000 same-sex marriage licences.

Questions to consider

1. Do Las Vegas casinos marketing and consumer outreach promote irresponsible jumps into marriage or personal freedom for couples?
2. Do Las Vegas casinos need to implement more regulations on wedding marketing to ensure consumers fully understand the responsibilities and seriousness of marriage?
3. Should LVCA advocate for harsher requirements to obtain a marriage license in Las Vegas, lower requirements, keeping it the same?
4. How should LVCA address rising divorce rates in correspondence with the ease of obtaining a marriage license in Las Vegas?
5. On a regional level, how is LVCA impacting the Las Vegas economy by providing wedding and hospitality services? Is it supporting bridal, catering, florist, etc, businesses, and is that a significant enough impact?

Topic B: Addressing Organized Crime and Regular Crimes in Casinos



Figure 1: The Mob

Introduction:

Every year, countless lives are lost as a result of organized crime. These problems include drug related health problems and violence. These crimes also include illicit goods and weapons, armed robbery, counterfeiting and even money laundering. Which is a huge problem in casinos because of the cash-intensive nature of casinos. Especially since casinos deal with large amounts of cash, making them attractive targets for money laundering, and much more things including the historical ties, and control and influence of these casinos specifically in Las Vegas which shows up as a big issue.

Early History: The Mob & Regulations:

The relationship between casinos and organized crime in Las Vegas has a long and complex history. Starting in the 1960s when the relationship between casinos and organized crime in Las Vegas began to change, with the passing of stricter gambling laws and increased government regulation. Especially since the mob played a significant role in the development and operation of casinos in Las Vegas, they were able to finance and operate these casinos, and often used their influence and connections to protect their interests and maintain control of this fast growing industry. However the mob's influence was pushed out in the casino industry and was monitored by the government. The mob were the people that started casinos and were dangerous, as they continued to be involved in a broad spectrum of illegal activities.

Crime Evolving: Security Measure:

When it comes to security and surveillance, casinos are the ones that face different challenges. As they have large and open environments with several entry and exit points, it makes it hard to see when crime walks in and out of the building. They also attract sizable crowds, day and night which consist of large groups. Also, in more modern-day casinos in Las Vegas they often have different complexes that attract attention. Such as shops, restaurants, bars, clubs, etc. Which makes it hard to keep track of everybody on cameras, and even have security members. In the summer of 2020, it was seen that in Las Vegas there was an increase in aggravated assaults, homicides, gang-related activity, and a host of other crimes that spilled into these Casinos affecting the people.

Casinos must now have to implement new technologies that cover the entire facility, but how will each individual casino have the money for that?

Money Laundering Case of Former Casino Executive:

Money laundering in casinos has been significant due to the large amounts of cash handled in the gambling industry. However; the exact scale of money laundering in these casinos is difficult to quantify because the nature of the activity within gambling is inherently secretive, and successful laundering often goes undetected. However; one case that was recently on the news May 8th 2025, was about a man who admitted he allowed an illegal bookmaker to gamble millions of dollars at the MGM Grand to pay off debts in cash. The MGM Grand itself, and even the nearby Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas previously settled a related case which stemmed from the U.S Justice Department money laundering, as they have been stepping up with anti-money laundering compliance programs. Most of these crimes come from addiction to gambling. These programs help, however can there be a bigger solution at hand to help fix this?

Questions to consider:

1. How can casinos have a thorough understanding of what is all going on in casinos, beyond security cameras and security guards?
2. Should the LVCA even bring up the old history of the mob, and realize the nature of these problems? Or should they hide it as if it's forgotten?
3. What is at the utmost of the concerns to help solve Organized Crimes?
4. How is the crime evolving going to affect these casinos in the future, and how can we prevent it from continually overspreading in our casinos?

Positions List:

Hard Rock Hotel and Casino

Hard Rock Hotel and Casino was founded through the first hard rock cafe, opened in 1971, in London. High energy setting with several references to rock and other aspects of pop culture. The casino's primary theme is rock n'roll, and is currently run by Jim Allen.

MGM Grand

MGM Grand opened on December 18th, 1993. MGM grand scales on the more luxurious side of casinos, and is known for its gaming, amenities, and accommodations. It is owned by Vici properties and is currently run by Terrence Lanni.

Caesars Entertainment

Caesars Entertainment was founded in 1937 and originally went under the name of Eldorado Casino. It is known for its luxurious amenities and accommodations as well as its entertainment and gaming. It is also one of the largest and most known casinos in the world. It is currently run by Thomas R. Reeg.

Treasure Island Hotel and Casino Las Vegas

Treasure Island Hotel and Casino opened on October 17th, 1993. It is known for its pirated themed casino and resort, and its gaming and entertainment. It is currently run by private billionaire Phil Ruffin.

The Cromwell Las Vegas

The Cromwell Las Vegas opened on May 21, 2014. It is currently owned by Caesars Entertainment. It is known for its contemporary and art-centered theme. The casino is chic and holds a variety of gaming to partake in.

Luxor Hotel and Casino

The Luxor Hotel and Casino opened on October 15, 1993 and is currently owned by MGM Resorts International. It is known for its noticeable pyramid design and Egyptian-contemporary theme. The Luxor Hotel and Casino has a variety of amenities and gaming for guests to partake in.

Mandalay Bay Casino

The Mandalay Bay Casino opened on March 2nd, 1999. It is currently owned by MGM Resorts International, and is known for its tropical theme and most especially its tropical-centered amenities.

Planet Hollywood Casino

The Planet Hollywood Casino opened on October 22, 2007 and is currently owned by Caesars Entertainment. It is known for its Hollywood theme and contemporary and chic decorations. The gaming floor of Planet Hollywood Casino also acts as a staple. It is currently run by Robert Earl.

Aria Casino

The Aria Casino opened on December 16, 2009, and is currently owned by MGM Resorts International. It is on the more luxurious side of the scale for casinos, and is known for its chic theme. It is currently run by Ayesha Molino.

Four Queens Casino

The Four Queens Casino opened in 1966 and is currently owned by the Four Queens, Inc. It is known for its traditional vegas theme and for being in downtown Las Vegas. The Four Queens Casino also has staple dining and gaming.

Flamingo Las Vegas Casino

The Flamingo Las Vegas Casino opened on December 26, 1946, and is currently owned by Caesars Entertainment. It is known for its luxurious, pink, and tropical theme. The Flamingo also holds expansive gaming.

Excalibur Casino

The Excalibur Casino opened on June 19, 1990, and is known for its medieval theme and castle shaped resort and casino. It is currently owned by MGM Resorts International. Its dining and amenities are a staple for its brand.

The Cosmopolitan Casino

The Cosmopolitan Casino opened on December 15, 2010, and is known for its luxurious and upscale theme. It is currently owned by the Blackstone Group. Its gaming is a staple for its brand.

Circus Circus Casino

Circus Circus Casino opened on October 18th, 1968. It is the world's largest combined casino and amusement park. It has a theme of clowns and is a staple for the brand. However; they are known to have the loosest slots on the strip. Many even say it's rigged with the odds and the payout when they play with their slots and is currently owned and operated by Phil Ruffin.

Casino at New York - New York

Opened January 1997. This Casino represents various tallest structures, among its tallest is a replica of the Empire State Building standing at over 47 stories. With over 900 slot machines, and 80 casino gaming tables they have had best luck with their payout, and had a 5.46% win percentage in 2022. It is owned by Vici Properties and operated by MGM Resorts International

Red Rock Casino

Opened April 19th, 2006 with the classic theme of modern/desert to fit its title. It is also known to be the best casino resort, and locals in Las Vegas love it here! With over 2,700 of the latest machines, it is known to be one of the best casinos in Vegas for slots and has a huge payout! It is owned by Station Casinos.

Planet Hollywood Casino

Opened in 1963, they had many plans to offer more than 60,000 photographs and movie posters. However, recently they had their restaurant close in May of 2023. They attract you in by giving free drinks, however that could be because they want you to gamble. The company is owned by Earl Enterprises corporation.

Casino at the El Cortez Hotel

Opened on November 7, 1941 and has reasonable prices in case you wanted to stay. They had loose slots and it doesn't even take a little bit of money to be entertained at this casino. The owner is Kenny Epstein.

Wynn Las Vegas Casino

Opened on April 28, 2005. Open 24 hours daily. They offer a variety of slot machines, table games, and sports betting in 110,00 square feet of gaming space. They are owned by Wynn's Resorts, Limited.

Casino at Bellagio

Opened on October 15, 1998. Famous for its spectacular fountain show and one of the top casinos in the world. It features 36 floors, and the spa tower adds 33 extra floors. They have over 2,300 reel, video reel and video poker games. Owned by MGM Resorts International, Realty Income Corporation, and The Blackstone Group L.P.

Paris Las Vegas Casino

Opened on September 1, 1999 this casino offers more than 850 on the floor, and has the newest Las Vegas machines. Known for having the literal eiffel tower in front of its hotel/casino. It is operated by Caesars Entertainment.

Luxor Casino

Developed by Circus Circus enterprises, it opened on October 15 1993 now owned and operated by MGM Resorts International. It has a 120,000 square foot casino and over 2,000 slot machines.

Mirage Hotel and Casino

Opened on November 22, 1989. At the time, it was the most expensive hotel-casino built. It was the first to offer a free outdoor attraction. It is closing, however it was \$1.6 million in unclaimed progressive jackpots from slot machines and table games. So it has gotten the most business in the coming months. Owned by VICI Properties.

The Venetian Las Vegas Casino

Opened May 2, 1999 and is the last great themed casino in Las Vegas. They have over 1,800 slots and have classic yet unique variations of the machines they have. It is owned by Vici Properties.

The Strat Hotel, Casino & Tower

Opened on April 30, 1996, and they have one of the loosest machines. They have casino floors that feature live gaming tables, with fancy racism blackjack, etc. Owned by Golden Entertainment.

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