

“Any law which UPLIFTS human personality is JUST.
Any law which DEGRADES human personality is UNJUST.” - Martin Luther King, Jr.



STOP PREDATORY GAMBLING

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2009 Stop Predatory Gambling National Conference: “The American Resilience” Nov. 9th and 10th in San Antonio, TX

You're invited to join us this November for the 2009 Stop Predatory Gambling National Conference: "The American Resilience." Concerned citizens from all over the country will convene to get the latest information, share stories, plan strategy, and create new friendships at the Drury Plaza Hotel on the Riverwalk in historic San Antonio.

Our meeting will be held in the shadow of the Alamo, a monument that symbolizes the resilient spirit of America. And while we are challenging a modern day Goliath, we need to remember that America's most enduring quality is her resiliency - a resiliency grounded in our strong faith, our sense of family and our commitment to the core democratic principles of freedom, equality and opportunity.

Top 5 Reasons to Attend:

- You are a **legislator, staffer** or concerned **citizen** looking for new, high quality information about one of the most important issues facing your state and your country.
- You want to **sharpen your skills** to become a **more influential advocate** to stop predatory gambling.
- You want to **meet some of the nation's leading voices** on predatory gambling.
- You want to **hear how your peers in other states** are taking on this issue.
- You want to **network with other leaders** and concerned citizens from across the nation.

Sign up now before Oct. 1st and save up to 25%!

- **Non-Profit Registration:** Registration Option for attendees who are associated with fellow non-profits **\$80.00 before Oct. 1st**. After Oct. 1st, \$100
- **State Employee/Legislative Staff:** Registration option for attendees who are state employees, including legislative staffers. **\$100.00 before Oct. 1st**. After Oct. 1st, \$120
- **Standard Registration:** General Registration **\$110.00 before Oct. 1st**. After Oct. 1st, \$130

If you are ready to sign up for the 2009 National Conference, visit StopPredatoryGambling.org to register online and to get more information about overnight accommodations.

The conference agenda includes:

- **EMPTY PROMISES : Revealing the Failures of the Predatory Gambling Business Model as a Revenue Source for States**

The debate around predatory gambling has tended to focus mostly on jobs and revenue but virtually no public official or member of the media can explain the business model behind predatory gambling because if they did understand it, most would be strongly opposed. Who really plays the Lottery? Who will play the proposed VLTs at the Racetrack? And who would play the slots at a Casino in San Antonio? Get the latest demographic studies from the Lottery itself that clearly show lottery sales predominantly come from the areas with low income and education and areas where there are high minorities. Learn how 90% of a casino's gambling profits come from 10% of the people who enter the facility and how it is the citizens that live in a 50 mile radius who will make-up the customer base. This session will analyze the business model in depth and draw lessons not

only for Texas, but communities across the nation.

- **A CHANGING AMERICA: The Economy, Government Funding, and Demographics in a Changing Texas and What It Means for America**

Texas, along with every other state, is under severe economic pressure. Businesses and families are experiencing the effect of the faltering economy. Governmental entities at both the state and local levels are trying to maintain services and looking for ways to pay for it. Meanwhile the demographics of Texas and the country are changing at a historic pace. To be prepared to talk about responsible public policy everyone needs to understand what the playing field looks like now and how it will continue to change.

- **HOW LOTTERY WINNERS GET TURNED INTO LOSERS: What Happens After the Lottery Takes the Picture Presenting the Oversized Check**

Edward Ugel, author of *Money for Nothing: One Man's Journey Through the Dark Side of Lottery Millions*, will speak about his experience working for the lump sum finance industry that specializes in purchasing annuities from lottery winners. Ugel spent his late twenties and early thirties working amongst some of the nation's most infamous gamblers and lottery winners. His book *Money for Nothing* (Harper Collins) was released in the fall of 2007 and Warner Brothers and Tobey Maguire recently purchased the film rights. The film is currently under development in Hollywood.

- **THE LATEST FORMS OF PREDATORY GAMBLING IN TEXAS AND ACROSS AMERICA: A Guide to How the Gambling Industry Circumvents Existing State Laws**

All a person needs to know about the legal and illegal forms of predatory gambling in Texas and across the country as well as insight on the predatory gambling trade's efforts to circumvent existing laws. Come learn how law enforcement officials deal with these attempts to expand predatory gambling beyond what is allowed by state law. Learn how gambling proponents have targeted historic properties across the country. Is a sweepstakes game that allows player to play electronic poker legal in Texas? How about if the winnings of an eight-liner are awarded on a debit card? Come get answers to these questions and your own.

- **LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF DEBT?: America's Debt Culture and Predatory Gambling**

Nearly every state Attorney General in America has been suing subprime lenders for their predatory lending practices. Congress recently acted to roll back the predatory practices of credit card companies. Yet in Texas and almost every other state, there is a massive effort to expand the most predatory financial institution still standing in America –state-sponsored predatory gambling. What happened to the public virtue of "Thrift"? It is certainly a word that left the public's lexicon several decades ago. Pro-thrift institutions are no longer available to all Americans. Many are left to conduct their financial transactions at convenience stores and tens of millions of Americans now believe the best way to attain long term financial security is to play the lottery.

- **EXPENDABLE AMERICANS: What Happens to the People Who Have Been Played to Extinction?**

This session will take a critical look at what kind of support and safety net system exists for addicted gamblers who are the lifeblood of the gambling trade's business model. How has the nation's economic crisis affected the demand for services? Who advocates for these citizens who have been rendered expendable by the public policy of state-sponsored predatory gambling?

- **USING NEW MEDIA TO CHALLENGE PREDATORY GAMBLING: Blogging, Social Networking and Advocacy Through Digital Media**

Learn how the use of social networking, blogs and digital media has changed the political landscape in America and grassroots movements are finding invaluable tools in advocating their position against superior funded operations. Attendees will not want to miss this opportunity to learn about these tools from experts.

- **TOWN HALL MEETING: What's Happened in America After the "Gambling" Camel Put His Head Under the Tent?**

California tried to solve its budget problems with Indian Casinos....Florida tried to simply help the Horse Industry....Pennsylvania tried to keep gambling dollars in their state and now they are writing IOUs too. This session will include open discussion on the reality of the empty promises that have accompanied the casino style gambling business model

in states across our country.