

## 2009 Stop Predatory Gambling Conference Schedule

### **Monday, November 9, 2009**

**7:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m. - Registration**

**8:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. – Welcoming Comments**

Les Bernal, Executive Director, Stop Predatory Gambling

**9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.**

**“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.

Dick Lavine- Senior Fiscal Analysis, Center for Public Policy Priorities- [Info](#).

Dr. Karl Eschbach- State Demographer of Texas, Office of the State Demographer- [Info](#).

**10:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**

**“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.

Lucy Dadayan, Senior Policy Analyst , Nelson Rockefeller Institute of Government

Gerald Busald, Math Professor , San Antonio College

John Kindt, Professor of Business Administration at the University of Illinois

**11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**Lunch**

**1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m**

## **“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.

Barbara Dafoe Whitehead, Senior Scholar, Institute for American Values

**2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m**

### **“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. 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.

David Glickler, Assistant Attorney General, Texas Attorney General's Office

Craig Dewees, Detective, Dallas Police Department

Jay Norman, Detective, Dallas Police Department

**3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m**

### **“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.

**4:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m**

### **“Prized Americans”- What is being done to help compulsive gamblers Restore their Lives**

The focus of the panel will be on restoring these prized Americans whose lives and families have been torn apart. It will include: an analysis of the serious problem of compulsive gambling in Texas and in other states; how they are addressing it; who the problem gambler is; the existing sources available; and what else is needed to help.

Charles F. Vorkoper, LCSW, LPC, LMFT, Certified Gambling Counselors, President, Board of Directors, Texas Council on Problem and Compulsive Gambling

Wiley Harwell, LPC, Certified Gambling Counselors, Executive Director, Oklahoma Problem Gambling Council

**5:30- 7:00-**  
**Dinner-**

## **Tuesday, November 10, 2009**

**9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.**

### **“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.

Eileen Smith, Editor, In the Pink- Texas Monthly- [Info](#).

**10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**

### **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.

**11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

### **FULL SPEED AHEAD: Growing the National Movement to Stop Predatory Gambling**

An Open discussion about your hopes for the movement and what we can do together to make these hopes a reality