



STATE OF WASHINGTON
GAMBLING COMMISSION

"Protect the Public by Ensuring that Gambling is Legal and Honest"

For Immediate Release:

May 31, 2013

NEW COMMISSIONER APPOINTED TO THE GAMBLING COMMISSION



Olympia, Washington: Governor Inslee recently appointed Chris Stearns as a Commissioner to the Washington State Gambling Commission. He will attend his first Gambling Commission meeting in July 2013.

Commissioner Stearns is from the Navajo Nation and practices Native American law with Hobbs, Straus, Dean & Walker LLP. Commissioner Stearns has spent his career working in Native American public policy and has served as Indian Affairs Director under Energy Secretary Bill Richardson, Democratic Counsel to the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources under Chairman George Miller, Deputy Counsel to the U.S. House Native American Affairs Subcommittee, North Dakota State Campaign Director for Vice President Al Gore, and Political Advisor to Tex Hall, President of the National Congress of American Indians.

Commissioner Stearns is active in his community, serving two terms as Chairman of the Seattle Human Rights Commission and is also on the Board of Directors of the Seattle Indian Health Board. He is a graduate of Williams College and Cornell Law School.

The Washington State Gambling Commission was created by the Legislature in 1973 to regulate gambling after a series of gambling related scandals. Five citizens are appointed by the Governor, with the consent of the Senate, to act as part-time Commissioners for a single six-year term. We anticipate Commissioner Stearns will have a confirmation hearing before the Senate during the 2014 Legislative Session. The Gambling Commission typically meets once a month to discuss administrative issues, approve new gambling licenses, discuss and approve proposed rule changes, and take action regarding the revocation or suspension of gambling licenses. To learn more about what we do, visit www.wsgc.wa.gov.

The Gambling Commission's Mission:

"Protect the Public by Ensuring that Gambling is Legal and Honest."

For questions, please contact:

Susan Newer, Public Information Officer
Washington State Gambling Commission
(360) 486-3466 or e-mail Susan.Newer@wsgc.wa.gov