

**Justice Talking Listening Guide**  
**Casino Gambling: The Answer for Cash-Strapped States?**  
3/5/07

**SHOW SUMMARY**

Casino gambling has undergone a boom in recent years as cash-strapped states and Native American tribes have opened casinos and entertainment complexes across the nation. In this edition of Justice Talking, we'll take a look at who is profiting from these developments. Will casino gambling raise the state revenues that have been promised? How will gambling affect local neighborhoods and gamblers? Tune in this week as we look at whether casinos are a win or loss for communities.



**David Schwartz**

- Part 1: Justice Talking's Viet Le spent an afternoon in downtown Philadelphia with an anti-gambling organizer to hear what some residents think about the plan to build casinos in their city.



**Lou Lang**

- Part 2: Margot talks with **David Schwartz**, author of "Roll the Bones: The History of Gambling in America," about the history and state of gambling in the U.S.



**Jan Jones**

- Part 3: Margot interviews **Lou Lang**, a Democratic state representative from Skokie, Illinois, about his efforts to expand gambling in the state, including building casinos in Chicago.



**Tom Grey**

- Part 4: Gaming industry spokesperson **Jan Jones** and gambling opponent **Tom Grey** debate whether casino gambling is good for our communities.



**Stacy Friedman**

- Part 5: Pennsylvania began granting licenses for slot machine parlors late last year. Reporter Brad Linder visited one of the first in the state.



**Kathryn Rand**

- Part 6: Margot talks with mathematician **Stacy Friedman** about the history of slot machines and how they work.

- Part 7: Margot speaks with Kathryn Rand, a tribal gaming law and policy scholar, about the impact casinos have on Native American communities.



**ONLINE GAMBLING  
CRACKDOWN**

October 2006 – New U.S. legislation bans online credit card payments to British gambling companies. Shares of these online companies crashed on the London markets this morning as a result.

Listen to this National Public Radio report and others on online gambling here:

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=6181456>



**Host Margot Adler**

Margot Adler is a National Public Radio correspondent based in NPR's New York bureau. Adler has thirty years of experience as a radio host and reporter and is the author of several books.

## DEFINITION OF TERMS

**Lottery** – procedure for distributing something (usually money or prizes) among a group of people by lot or by chance. The type of lottery considered here is a form of gambling in which many people purchase chances, called tickets, and the winning tickets are drawn from a pool composed of all tickets sold or offered for sale, or consisting of all of or most of the possible permutations of the numbers or symbols used on the tickets.

The practice of determining the distribution of property by lot is traceable to ancient times. Among dozens of biblical examples is one in the Old Testament (Numbers 26:55–56) that has the Lord instructing Moses to take a census of the people of Israel and to divide the land among them by lot. Roman emperors such as Nero and Augustus used lotteries to give away property and slaves during Saturnalian feasts and other entertainments.

**Odds** - In most gambling games it is customary to express the idea of probability in terms of odds against winning. This is simply the ratio of the unfavorable possibilities to the favorable ones. Because the probability of throwing a seven is one-sixth, on average one throw in six would be favorable and five would not; the odds against throwing a seven are therefore 5 to 1. The probability of getting heads in a toss of a coin is one-half; the odds are 1 to 1, called even. Care must be used in interpreting the phrase on average, which applies most accurately to a large number of cases and is not useful in individual instances.

*Definitions from the Encyclopedia Britannica, [www.britannica.com](http://www.britannica.com)*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Listen to Margot’s extended interview with Kathryn Rand (<http://www.justicetalking.org/viewprogram.asp?progID=591>) before answering the following questions.

How does gaming affect the Native American population in the U.S.?

How does Ms. Rand say Indian gaming affects stereotypes of Native Americans?

2. Would you want a casino in your neighborhood? Why or why not?



Gambling has only recently been added to the list of risky behaviors of adolescents. ... [I]n 2002...gambling was not yet considered a serious health threat to U.S. youth. At that time...it was thought to be a side issue, and...many were not convinced the U.S. faced a similar danger on this side of the Atlantic. ...“We thought the problem would be lotteries and casinos opening. We didn’t see the poker craze coming, and then the web.”

**Read this University of Pennsylvania article about a recent study on the growth of gambling among teenage boys and young men:**

<http://www.upenn.edu/pennnews/current/2006/033006/research.html>