

²⁹Alan Balboni, *Beyond the Mafia: Italian Americans and the Development of Las Vegas* (Reno: University of Nevada Press, 1996).

³⁰Alan Balboni, "Southern Italians and Eastern European Jews: Cautious Cooperation in Las Vegas Casinos," *Nevada Historical Society Quarterly*, 38:3 (Fall 1995), 153-73.

³¹Simich and Wright, *Peoples of Las Vegas*.

³²The concept of Las Vegas as a "transgressive environment" is developed by Karin Jaschke in her essay "Casinos Inside Out" in *Stripping Las Vegas: A Contextual Review of Las Vegas Casino Resort Architecture*, Karin Jaschke and Silke Otsch, eds. (London: Verso, 2003), 109-32.

³³Claytee White, "The Role of African-American Women in the Las Vegas Gaming Industry, 1940-1980" (M.A. thesis, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 1997).

³⁴Myoung-ja Lee Kwon, "An Interview with Sook-ja Kim: An Oral History (Las Vegas: University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 1997).

³⁵See, for instance, Adam Woog, *Frank Sinatra* (San Diego: Lucent Books, 2001); P. F. Kluge, *Biggest Elvis* (New York: Viking, 1996); Daniel Mark Epstein, *Nat King Cole* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1999); Wil Haygood, *In Black and White: The Life of Sammy Davis, Jr.* (New York: A. A. Knopf, 2003).

³⁶Robert Venturi, Denise Scott Brown, and Steven Izenour, *Learning From Las Vegas: The Forgotten Symbolism of Architectural Form* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1977); Frances Anderton and John Chase, *Las Vegas: The Success of Excess* (London: Ellipsis Konneman, 1996).

³⁷A summary of Bill Friedman's thought can be found in Jaschke and Otsch, *Stripping Las Vegas*, 69-86. See also Bill Friedman, *Designing Casinos to Dominate the Competition: The Friedman International Standard of Casino Design* (Reno: Institute for the Study of Gambling and Commercial Gaming, 2000).

³⁸Elizabeth Warren, "The History of Las Vegas Springs: A Disappeared Resource" (Ph.D. diss., Washington State University, 2001). The University of Nevada Press will be publishing an updated and expanded version of this work.

³⁹In 1977, the City of Las Vegas, at the behest of Mayor William Briare, commissioned an inventory of sites and structures worthy of preservation. See Charles Hall Page and Associates, Inc., *Historic Preservation Inventory and Guidelines: City of Las Vegas* (San Francisco: n.p., 1978). This report still serves as a reference for preservation activists and would be an excellent source for anyone writing about the area's preservation history and early architecture. Unfortunately, it is currently out of print and in need of updating. In addition, the inventory covers only the city of Las Vegas. We have no comparable volumes for Henderson, North Las Vegas, Boulder City, or Clark County.

⁴⁰Edward E. Baldwin, "Las Vegas in Popular Culture (Ph.D. diss., University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 1997).

⁴¹Ed Reid and Ovid Demaris, *The Green Felt Jungle* (New York: Pocket Books, 1963).

⁴²Ovid Demaris, *The Last Mafioso* (New York: Bantam Books, 1981); Drosnin, *Citizen Hughes*; Steven Brill, *The Teamsters* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1978); Sheehan, *The Players*. See also Peter Wiley and Robert Gottlieb, *Empires in the Sun: The Rise of the New American West* (New York: G. P. Putnam and Sons, 1982), 191-216; Nicholas Pileggi, *Casino: Love and Honor in Las Vegas* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1995).

Civil Rights and Employment Equity in Las Vegas Casinos

The Failed Enforcement of the Casino Consent Decree, 1971 - 1986

JEFFREY J. SALLAZ

INTRODUCTION

Alongside the explosive growth of Las Vegas during the midtwentieth century, there arose a cottage industry of popular, academic, and governmental exposés condemning the secret source of the city's success: financing by organized crime syndicates.¹ As publicly traded corporations have come to dominate the Nevada casino market since the 1980s,² the dominant narrative of this part of Nevada history has shifted in tone from denial to a mythology that treats mob funding as a necessary, even romantic, stage in the evolution of an industry long shunned by moralistic mainstream investors.³ Another of the industry's former stigmas has received similar treatment: the Las Vegas casinos' discriminatory practices toward racial minorities. Once labeled bosses of the "Mississippi of the West" because of their refusal to allow minorities to gamble in their stores, Las Vegas casino owners during the 1960s and 1970s—with a little prodding from civil-rights groups and progressive state politicians—opened up their pits to gamblers of all stripes. As with the usurpation of the mob's domain by corporate capital, the casino's "modernization" of their treatment of minority consumers is viewed as having been overdetermined by economic forces, namely, the profit motive: "For the casino owners, economic self-interest would beat out racial anxiety every time . . . The casino resort was now a truly democratic institution that took the money of all gamblers without regard to race, religion, sex, or creed."⁴ Today, the racial demographics of visitors to Las Vegas are remarkably representative of the population of the United States as a whole.⁵

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