

Predictions 2014: Jeff Ifrah and Sarah Coffey

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Jeff Ifrah and Sarah Coffey of Ifrah Law share their top three predictions for the egaming industry going into the new year

The internet gaming industry is always changing, and 2013 was a banner year in which state-level egaming was legalized and launched in three states. We at Ifrah Law have been in this business a long time and, while we are not fortunate tellers, we do have three key predictions for 2014.

1) State compacts

It's very likely that Delaware, New Jersey and Nevada will enter into a multistate poker agreement with each other—and any other states that enter the market—in order to share games and players. For players, this will mean more people at the tables, bigger prize pools, and more competitive games.

These factors are likely to increase the popularity of the games, meaning more money coming in for the states to share. That revenue generation is likely to encourage states on the sidelines to enter the market to get a cut of the earnings, maybe without necessarily having to do the legwork of licensing and regulating the online casinos themselves.

2) California to enter the market

Odds are split on whether California will launch egaming in the coming year. Numerous bills have been discussed in the past, but the state will have to start accelerating its legislative agenda in order to get anything off the ground in 2014. Can the Indian Tribes agree on an egaming package for California? If they do, with a population of 38 million people, California would easily dethrone New Jersey as the largest state market and would be in a position of immense power in dictating the terms of any compacts with other states.

3) Federal intervention

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If the Supreme Court permits intrastate sports betting, surely it will not be long before sports betting goes online. We would welcome a safe regulated forum for patrons to place sports bets in the United States, rather than continue to force the industry to continue to operate in the sometimes shady offshore operations that many Americans use today.

This year really got the ball rolling on egaming and we think it will only pick up momentum in 2014.

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