

Monday 24 February 2014

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## IGC claims important victory in Kentucky domains case



The International Gaming Council (IGC) has won an important victory in its epic six-year fight against the State of Kentucky, winning the right to stand on behalf of 61 of its members.

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The case **dates back** to 2008 when the State seized 141 online gambling domain names in an unprecedented move against the industry. Most recently, the Franklin Court of Appeals found that the IGC did have standing to appear on behalf of its members and contest a forfeiture of those domain names.

"This case has a long, complex, and somewhat tortured procedural history," wrote Judge Allison Jones. "For many intents and purposes, the Commonwealth has treated the domain names as a group. The Commonwealth cannot now turn the tables and ask the Court to require each domain name owner to come forward individually and assert virtually identical legal arguments through separate counsel to resolve threshold, purely legal issues that affect the validity of the entire forfeiture procedure."

Jeff Iffrah of Iffrah Law, who fought and won the case on behalf of the IGC, commented: "Trying to force 141 domain name owners to pursue their claims individually - filing extremely similar, but distinct motions and appeals - would be burdensome and inefficient. Now that associational standing has been demonstrated, we will seek to reinstate the **earlier Court of Appeals** decision that domain names are not 'property' subject to forfeiture and do not constitute 'gambling devices.'"

Since the case was first brought by the State, various companies have been added and taken away from the suit. The State **accepted \$6.1m** from the Department of Justice's settlement with PokerStars and Full Tilt Poker, which seemed to release the companies from the suit but there is some ongoing litigation surrounding this issue.

Microgaming is understood to have settled separately, while a number of Microgaming skins remain among the IGC members. Members of the Interactive Media Entertainment & Gaming Association (iMega), which were originally part of the case, pulled out in 2013.

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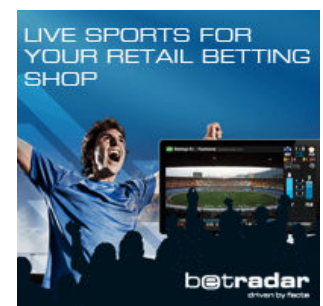
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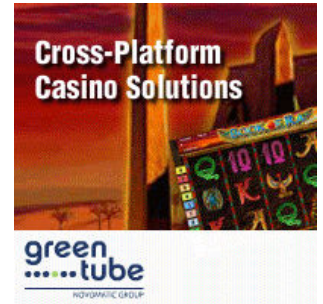
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