

Morning Keynote - 9:05 - 9:30 a.m.

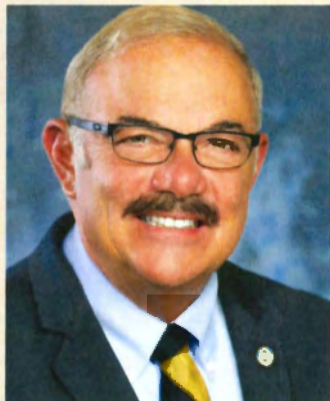
A Path Forward for Gaming to Partner in Addressing the Substance Abuse Epidemic

James T. Plousis, Chairman, New Jersey Casino Control Commission

The strictly regulated gaming industry can provide a path forward as a partner in the critical work of addressing the substance abuse epidemic. From 1976 until 2020, the New Jersey Casino Control Commission was statutorily precluded from granting a casino key employee license to anyone disqualified under the Casino Control Act.

Pursuant to new legislation signed by Governor Phil Murphy, effective January 21, 2020, the Commission may now grant a license to anyone who successfully completes Recovery Court providing life-altering opportunities and career goals.

Bringing a lifelong career in law enforcement, NJ Casino Control Commission Chairman James Plousis has a progressive understanding of how to ensure non-violent former offenders who have changed their lives for the better can maintain that change. His vision and desire to ensure that the Commission remain a key partner and catalyst in promoting the general welfare, health and prosperity of Atlantic City, the Greater Atlantic City region, and the State of New Jersey as a whole is a primary mission of the Commission. In keeping with that pledge, Chairman Plousis has enabled the Commission to become close to the local community and engage in a broader reach of applicants for all available credentials, not just the Commission's bailiwick of casino key employee licenses. Chairman Plousis has gladly offered support when he was approached by members of the community asking for the Commission's assistance. For over 45 years, the Commission has been the gold standard for regulation, not just in New Jersey, but around the world. And now, in one of the most tightly regulated jurisdictions, we are able to give deserving people a second chance. Good people make mistakes. In the end, many of these people can end up being excellent employees.



James T. Plousis was sworn in as the eighth chairman of the New Jersey Casino Control Commission in December of 2017. Plousis has a law enforcement career that spans more than four decades. He served six terms as Sheriff of Cape May County, New Jersey and then as the United States Marshal for New Jersey, following his nomination by President George W. Bush. He served as Chairman of the State Parole Board following his nomination by Governor Christie. Under his leadership, the board coordinated a statewide effort in support of veterans who become involved in the criminal justice system. Additionally, he served on the board of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, is a member of the United States Marshals Survivors Benefit Fund (USMSBF) and served as the chairman of its executive advisory committee. Plousis is a graduate of Slippery Rock University and of the Rutgers University Public Manager Program. He lives in Ocean City, New Jersey and has two adult children.

The Casino Control Commission is the independent licensing authority of New Jersey's casinos and its key employees. As a quasi-judicial panel, the Commission conducts hearings on contested casino key employee license matters as well as appeals from decisions of, or penalties imposed by, the Division of Gaming Enforcement. The success and ongoing viability of the gaming industry remains inextricably linked to the public's confidence that the State of New Jersey will ensure that people in the industry possess good character, honesty and integrity. Stewardship over that public confidence is a principal responsibility of the Commission and its Chairman.