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News Release

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CARD ROOM ORGANIZERS INDICTED ON GAMBLING VIOLATIONS

(Phoenix) – An Arizona grand jury returned multiple indictments this week in Superior Court against the International Card and Game Players Association in Tombstone -- and its Valley-based organizers Harold Lee, Michael Orlando and a third unnamed defendant – for their alleged role in a ring of gambling card rooms located throughout Arizona. Some of the charges include conspiracy to engage in an illegal gambling business, as well as promotion of, and benefitting from gambling.

“We are actively investigating these types of unlawful enterprises across the state,” said Mark Brnovich, Director of the Arizona Department of Gaming. “Illicit gambling attracts additional crime into our neighborhoods and detracts from public confidence and patronage of legitimate gaming operations.”

At the forefront of the controversy is Harold “Bud” Lee, a former Phoenix Justice of the Peace and an outspoken advocate for off-reservation poker rooms. An indictment is the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity. An individual is presumed to be innocent until evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

“Everyone is entitled to their day in court,” added Brnovich, “But nobody is above the law.”

This case is being prosecuted by the Arizona Attorney General’s Office. For more information or to request an interview with Director Brnovich, contact Rick Medina, Policy and Communications Manager of the Arizona Department of Gaming at (602) 604-1801, ext. 206.

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