



Chat with Casino History Experts at Casino Collectibles Show

Meet & Greet Gaming Education Series feature of annual collectors' club expo.

Visitors to the [Casino Collectibles Association](#)'s 32nd annual Casino Chip and Collectibles Show in Vegas will have a unique opportunity to meet, greet, sign autographs and take selfies with five prominent figures who were eyewitnesses to gaming history. Here are the celebrities who will headline the club's informal *Celebrity Meet & Greet Gaming Education Series* at the World's Largest Casino Chip and Collectibles exhibition, which runs Thursday thru Saturday, June 12-14, 2025, at the South Point Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas:



Michael Clifford, Director of Casino Operations at Caesars

Entertainment. Thirty years ago, he was a dealer, and today he oversees the Table Game operations at Caesars Palace and Cromwell. His gaming experience is impressive, both nationally and internationally. He spent nearly a decade in Macau SAR as Vice President of Table Games at MGM Macau and later as Senior Vice President – Casino Operations of Wynn Palace. Prior to joining Caesars Entertainment, he held senior gaming management positions at Resorts World and Fontainebleau, and a stint as Vice President of

International Marketing at MGM Resorts International. Meet and talk with Michael Clifford Thursday, June 12 at 11 a.m.

Dr. David G. Schwartz, UNLV Casino History Professor. From a dusty desert to the pinnacle of American gambling, casinos were the driving force that grew Las Vegas from a local curiosity to a national obsession to a global destination. Casinos put Las Vegas on the map, and no one knows the story better than Professor Schwartz. So well, in fact, he recently published *Something for Your Money*, a history of casinos in Las Vegas. He will greet those attending on Thursday, June 12 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.





Matt Savage, Executive Tour Director of the World Poker Tour. There's a reason most poker tournaments go smoothly, and his name is Matt Savage. In 2001 he instigated a forum of poker tournament directors to tackle a serious problem that was plaguing the industry—inconsistent rules. Out of that meeting the Tournament Directors Assoc. (TDA) was formed, which created the worldwide standard for the tournament rules

now used in most major tournaments including the World Poker Tour (WPT) and the World Series of Poker (WSOP). Bring your poker tournament questions and meet and talk with Matt Savage on Friday, June 13 at 9 a.m.

Pam Ashlund, the “Queen of Swizzle”. A passionate collector, she is the founder of the Swizzle Stick Collectors Club (SSCC), whose mission is to celebrate and preserve the humble swizzle stick as both a collectible and an art form. She loves to share her fascination with these simple yet iconic connections to the past, and the importance of the swizzle stick as a casino souvenir. She will greet attendees on Friday, June 13 at 11 a.m.



Dustin Marks, Blackjack Cheater. 38 years ago, he dealt blackjack and cheated the casinos out of millions of dollars—and never got caught. The casino consultant and book author will display how he ripped-off casinos in the days before shuffling machines and card shoes. Marks will perform his successful blackjack swindling moves, undetectable sleight of hand actions and share his stranger-than-truth stories at two demonstrations on Saturday June 14 at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

The *Celebrity Meet & Greet Gaming Education Series* is the personification of the Casino Collectibles Association's objective to foster the preservation and



education of gaming history. Each gaming celebrity has volunteered their time to greet, meet and mingle with show attendees, answer their questions and satisfy their curiosity about the personality's unique role in the shaping of the gaming industry we know today.