

RONNIE JONES

Ronnie Jones was appointed by Governor Bobby Jindal to the position of Chairman of the Louisiana Gaming Control Board in August of 2013. Until that time Jones had most recently served as the Confidential Assistant to the Superintendent of the Louisiana State Police, a senior staff position he had held since returning to State Police in 2008.

Ronnie brings a unique and varied background to the position of Chairman. He was the primary legislative coordinator for the State Police when the riverboat and video poker authorization acts were introduced in 1991, and he participated in the debate and discussion which eventually resulted in the legalization of gaming. Thereafter, he was a senior operational and policy advisor and the department spokesperson when State Police established the regulatory structure and began issuing licenses.

The Gaming Control Board was created in 1996 and is an independent body comprised of 9 appointees from a variety of disciplines who serve 6 year staggered terms. The Board oversees an industry which annually generates more than \$3 billion in total net revenue and pays nearly three-quarters of a billion dollars in state fees. The Board is primarily responsible for ensuring and promoting public confidence in, and operational integrity of 15 riverboat properties, the landbased casino in the city of New Orleans, nearly 2,000 licensed video poker establishments and 4 slots at the tracks operations.

Jones previously retired from his commissioned position at the Louisiana State Police in October 2000 after 27 years of service. He had served as Deputy Superintendent for Operations, Planning and Training where he oversaw a variety of critical programs and activities including training, research, planning, budgeting, grants administration and public affairs. He also served as Deputy Superintendent for Support, Safety, Security and Communications and as a State Police Troop Commander. He was the primary legislative liaison and coordinator for public safety and state police legislative initiatives for nearly a decade.

Jones was appointed to the Governor's DWI and Vehicular Homicide Task Force by Governor Mike Foster in 1996 and served as its chairman for 3 years. The Task Force was instrumental in reshaping Louisiana's drinking and driving laws by increasing penalties for driving under the influence, raising the drinking age to 21, lowering the presumptive blood alcohol level, and prohibiting open alcohol containers in motor vehicles.

During most of his career Jones served as the official agency spokesperson and managed the media in a variety of mundane, technical and crisis situations. He is widely recognized as an expert in the field of crisis communications management and has provided media-related consultant and instructional services to public and private sector entities throughout the country. His clients have included NASA, the National Transportation Board, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the National Information Officers Association and the University of Louisiana System.

Until his appointment as Chairman, Jones had been an Adjunct Faculty member at the University of North Florida's Institute of Police Technology and Management since 1981 where he co-founded the Institute's nationally recognized Police-Media Relations course. When he left, the program was the longest continuously running program of its kind in the country.

Jones' experience in media management is extensive and his exposure is varied. He has appeared on ABC's World News Tonight and Nightline, CNN and CNN Headline News, the Australian Broadcast Service Evening News, the CBS Evening News, The Fox News Network, the NBC Today Show and Nightly News, Unsolved Mysteries, and Rescue 911. He has worked with segment producers for National Public Radio, WNET and the Public Broadcasting System, the BBC, the Weather Channel, ABC's 20/20, CBS' 48 Hours, Court TV and CNN, as well as producers for a number of talk format national television programs.

Jones earned his BA from Louisiana State University in 1974, his MS from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1983, and graduated from Northwestern University's Traffic Institute in Evanston, Illinois in 1979.

He served as the pro bono Executive Director of the Louisiana Trooper Foundation from 2008-2013 and was previously a member of the Boards of the New Orleans Metropolitan Crime Commission and the Public Relations Association of Louisiana. His affiliations have included the Southern Public Relations Federation, the National Association of Government Communicators, the National Information Officer's Association and the Association of State Communicators. He is the author of several professional articles, a contributing writer for the text, *Police and the Media*, co-editor of the book *Soldiers of the Law*, and is the former editor of the "Louisiana Trooper" magazine.

He alternately served both in an adjunct and full-time capacity as a Criminal Justice professor at Southeastern Louisiana University from 1992 until 2013 and was an adjunct professor at Tulane University from 2000 until 2006. He continues to serve as an unpaid member of Tulane University's Biomedical Institutional Review Board.

He is a native of Tangipahoa Parish and currently resides in New Orleans.