



ILLINOIS GAMING BOARD

Press Advisory

For Immediate Release
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March 4, 2004

All news desks, assignment editors and reporters:

On Wednesday, March 10, 2004, the investment-banking firm Rothschild Inc. will be conducting an auction for the purchase of Emerald Casino Inc. The auction will be held at the law firm of Kirkland & Ellis LLP, located at the Aon Center, 200 East Randolph Drive, Chicago, Illinois.

This is a process being conducted under the auspices of a bankruptcy court order approving bidding procedures for an auction. This is a process that is regularly held behind closed doors and not open to the media and the public.

The Illinois Gaming Board is requiring Emerald Casino Inc. to open this process to the media and the public as much as possible. Space however will be limited. **Representatives of the media and members of the public wishing to cover or attend this event must write, fax or e-mail Mr. Sven Nylen. Representatives of the media and members of the public who do not contact Mr. Nylen by 5 p.m. Monday, March 8, 2004 will not be allowed entry. Access to the Aon Building after regular business hours is limited.**

Mr. Nylen is an attorney with the law firm of Kirkland & Ellis LLP. He can be contacted by phone at (312) 861-2000 ext. 3025, by fax at (312) 660-7942 or e-mail at snylen@kirkland.com. Kirkland and Ellis LLP reserves the right to deny entry or exclude persons or organizations that disrupt the proceedings.

PLEASE NOTE that contacting Mr. Nylen by mail, fax or e-mail is merely a prerequisite to attending the auction. Due to space limitations, seating will be available strictly on a first-come basis. When the auction room is full, no further members of the public or media will be allowed entrance until such space is available.

The auction will begin at approximately 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 10, 2004. The media and the public will not be allowed entry until 8:30 a.m. The auction will conclude when each company has submitted a final bid. This process may be lengthy and stretch into the early morning hours of Thursday, March 11, 2004.

There are several guidelines for the press and public. The media and public will be allowed to attend those portions of the auction that will take place in a conference room located on the 54th floor in the offices of Kirkland & Ellis LLP. The press and public will be required to

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view the proceedings as it would any other legal hearing. No cameras or tape recorders will be allowed into the proceedings. Additionally, members of the press should bring their press credentials.

Other portions of the auction will not be open to the press or public. The closed portion of the auction will take place in nearby offices where representatives of Rothschild will meet with the bidders individually to discuss their offers. Representatives of the Illinois Gaming Board will be present to witness the entirety of the proceedings. The auction itself will be conducted in public and recorded by a stenographer.

Representatives of Rothschild and the three bidders will be available to address the media on camera, if they choose to do so, at a different location in the office.

The sale of Emerald Casino Inc. is being conducted under a bankruptcy reorganization plan that was negotiated by Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan. U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge Eugene Wedoff has approved the sales process. In addition to the Board, Judge Wedoff must approve the final sale of Emerald Casino Inc. Once the sale has received approvals from Judge Wedoff and the Board, it is estimated the 10th license will become operational within 15 months. The Gaming Board will take action in Open Session on March 15, 2004 designating the winning bidder.

News desks and editors seeking more information should contact Mr. Sven Nylen, with Kirkland & Ellis LLP at (312) 861-2000 ext. 3025 for further details.

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