

Distinguished Nevadan Nomination Form

Deadline: December 31

Please send all nominations to:

**Dean J. Gould, Chief of Staff & Special Counsel
Board of Regents
4300 South Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89119
e-mail: dean_gould@nshe.nevada.edu Fax: (702) 889-8495**

1. **Salutation:** Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms. Dr.

2. **Nominee's Name** *(please ensure correct spelling):*

Donald L. Carano

3. **Nominee's Mailing Address:** _____

4. **Nominee's Phone Number: Work:** _____ **Home:** _____

5. **Employment History** *(attach additional material if necessary):*

Please see attached biography

6. Educational Background (attach additional material if necessary):

7. Reasons for Nomination: (Please include outstanding accomplishments, achievements, and contributions to Nevada and its people. Please be specific and provide considerable detail. You may attach additional pages if necessary.) _____

Please see attached biography

8. Other NSHE Awards (please list other awards this individual has received): _____

9. Nominated by Regent: Full Board of Regents

Donald L. Carano Biography

Name: Donald L. Carano
Place of Birth: Reno, Nevada
Occupation: Business Management Executive
Attorney
Nevada Hotel-Casino Industry
California Wine and Hospitality Industry

A native of Reno, Nevada, Don completed an undergraduate degree at the University of San Francisco, followed by a two-year stint as an officer in the United States Army. Returning to USF, Don attended law school, graduated with honors and began his law practice in Reno. His professional career began with the McDonald Carano Wilson LLP which was established in 1949 by United States Senator Alan Bible and Robert McDonald, and still maintains an “Of Counsel” relationship with the firm. As a specialist in gaming and real estate development matters, Mr. Carano left the active practice of law to build his own hotel/casino in 1973, called the Eldorado Hotel and Casino. Today, the Eldorado comprises 817 rooms, nine restaurants, a microbrewery, 70,000 square feet of casino space, a 600-seat showroom, specialty retail shops and a convention center.

In 1992, Don entered a joint venture with Circus Circus Enterprises, with Mandalay Resorts/MGM, to create what is known today as the Silver Legacy Resort Casino, northern Nevada’s first mega-themed resort, wherein Eldorado Resorts attained a 50% interest at that time in Silver Legacy.

In addition to parallel careers as attorney, hotelier and restaurateur, Don became a winery owner in 1981 when he and his wife Rhonda founded Ferrari-Carano Vineyards and Winery in Sonoma County’s Dry Creek Valley. His commitment to fine wine, long-term vision and search for excellence in winemaking has been the driving force behind the success of the Ferrari-Carano brand, which has gained world-wide critical acclaim since its first vintage in 1985.

In 1999, Don and Rhonda bought two additional Sonoma County properties, Vintners Inn, a four-diamond hotel in the Russian River Valley area, and John Ash & Co., Sonoma County’s most acclaimed restaurant.

Through the next couple of decades Don's involvement in gaming operations at Eldorado and Silver Legacy continued and in 2014 Eldorado Resorts, Inc. successfully merged with MTR Gaming Group, Inc., becoming a publicly-traded company. In 2015 Eldorado Resorts, Inc., acquired the remaining 50% interest in Silver Legacy as well as well as 100% interest in Circus Circus Hotel Casino Reno.

Don throughout the years has been a pillar of the Northern Nevada community, supporting philanthropic endeavors and he continues to be relentless in his generosity, his spirit, his energy, his compassion and his love for Nevada.

Community and Professional Involvement:

- 2004 WIBC Gladys M. Banker Friendship Award
 - 2000 Millennium 2000 Lifetime Achievement Award, International Restaurant and Hospitality Rating Bureau.
 - 1999 University of San Francisco Law School's Alumnus of the Year.
 - 1997 Honored as "Knight in the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic" by the Consul General of Italy in San Francisco on behalf of the President of Italy. This is the highest civil decoration bestowed by Italy to an Italian living outside the country. Don received this award for his extraordinary efforts in promotion Italian culture in Nevada and northern California.
 - 1996 Inductee, International Gaming and Wagering Business (IGWB) Gaming Hall of Fame.
 - 1994 Nevada Food and Beverage Directors Association, Man-of-the-Year, Autrui Award for accomplishments in hotel/restaurant industry and the State of Nevada for far-reaching philanthropy.
- Past Board Member Reno-Sparks Convention Authority
Past Board Member Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority
Past Board Member Nevada Commission on Tourism
Past Member, Booster Club, University of Nevada, Reno
Partner/Past Board Member - Tamarack Junction Casino
Past Partner Boomtown Hotel Casino
Past Partner Pioneer Inn and Casino