

Opinion: Feds' decision on pot laws may create issues for casinos

By Jane Ann Morrison, Las Vegas Review-Journal

In November, Nevada's Gaming Policy Committee begged for guidance from the federal government about whether the feds are going to enforce federal laws passed in 1970 that criminalized pot use, cultivation and distribution.

Nevadans got their answer last week, but it wasn't the one many wanted. The feds aren't about to legalize pot. Instead of feds using discretion as happened under the Obama administration, it appears Nevada's decision to legalize recreational marijuana could see businesses, including casinos, prosecuted for breaking federal pot or banking laws.

A week ago, Attorney General Jeff Sessions appointed a Texas prosecutor, a graduate of Brigham Young University law school, to head the U.S. attorney's office, at least on an interim basis. Dayle Elieson took charge Friday, and Sessions said, "At the federal level, she has successfully taken on fraudsters, money launderers, and terrorists."

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