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Toward Legalization of Poker: The Chance Debate

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Keywords

Poker; games of skill; games of chance; mathematics

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Gaming and Casino Operations Management | Gaming Law

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Abstract

This paper sheds light on the age-old argument as to whether skill predominates over chance or vice versa. Recent work addressing chance is reviewed. This current study considers two different issues: 1) a mathematical analysis supported by computer simulation of a skilled player and one unskilled player in Texas Hold'Em, and 2) full-table Texas Hold'Em and Seven Card Stud. Findings for scenario 1 showed the skilled player winning 97 percent of the hands. Findings for scenario 2 further showed that skilled players convincingly beat unskilled players. Following this research, as predominantly a skill game, various gaming jurisdictions may thus legalize and broaden the game for new venues, new demographics, and new media. Internet gaming in particular may be released from its current illegality in the U.S. with benefits acc

to offer online poker.

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