

About the Author

Vincent “Vinny” DeCarlo is a retired casino employee with over 27 years of management experience. His expertise covers the pit, security, and surveillance, and he even served as a General Manager for two different casinos. Currently, he travels the states as a freelance reporter and a personal consultant to many casinos located on tribal reservations. According to Vinny, there are two types of casino employees—those that know DeCarlo, and those that claim to know DeCarlo. Therefore, never believe what you hear.

Vinny is unlike most casino executive because he has played both sides of the table. This allows him to help spot and correct loopholes and also take advantage of loopholes. He started his career from the inside of the pit. His curriculum vitae includes change boy, wheel dealer, craps dealer, blackjack dealer, cage manager, security officer, security chief, surveillance observer, surveillance supervisor, surveillance director, assistant casino manager, and casino general manager. As a player, he has worked with some of the best blackjack teams, and some of the greatest blackjack legends, living and past.

Vinny has worked as a consultant to the top-six major casino owners and/or operators. Not to be outdone, he has also worked as a consultant to several of the most professional blackjack teams that were ever unleashed on casinos. Though most folks find this to be an act of betrayal, nothing could be further from the truth. Why? Because Vinny has never allowed advanced players or teams to play in the casino of his current employer, nor has he ever outed any known advanced player or team. Both sides of the table respected this unwritten rule. There were a few times, however, when he had to cut into some players and advise them that they might want to finish the round and move on, assuring them that their picture would not be taken nor would any information of their play be circulated to other casinos.

If you've played in a casino in Atlantic City, Mississippi, Arizona, Las Vegas, Lake Tahoe, Jean, Primm, Reno, Carson City, California, Indiana, Michigan, and a few dozen other states, chances are Vinny has seen you and maybe even watched you play. Vinny is well respected on both sides of the table and has never turned his back on anyone because he is strictly old school.

If by chance you are into old casino and/or mobster movies or television series/documentaries pertaining to Las Vegas, or the history of gambling, chances are you have seen Vinny.

He drives an old, banana-yellow Camaro convertible SS 396 with a white top. So, if you see an old, handsome, dark haired man “styling” in a car that is as hot as the Las Vegas summer sun, give him a shout! He promises to wave back.

When Vinny plays blackjack, he uses the Omega II system (a three-level counting system with a side count of bullets) on single- and double-deck games (professional player and author Bryce Carlson has more than proven his Omega II system to Vinny and he is a true believer in it).

Vinny also uses John's Reppert system when he plays six- or eight-deck games. His reasoning: there are deeper and higher swings in six- and eight-deck games, and Vinny knows that 89% of casino surveillance departments utilize this count to verify advanced players. With this information, he knows how hot it gets in a surveillance room when he feels he's being watched. Because he has played on the "player side" of the table for 18 years (with and without teams), he can tell the temperature of a pit in mere seconds.

Vinny has used almost every counting system including Arnold Snyder's Red 7 to Einstein, and Uston's Hi/Low to Uston's advanced. Not only can Vinny recite all 26 card-counting systems, he can run down three games using three different systems and carry on a conversation at the same time.

When Vinny was a break-in dealer, there were only single-decks games, and the top card was "run under" (slid from the top of the deck and placed on the bottom of the deck) to indicate to the dealer that it was time to shuffle. Back in those days, the spent cards were picked up and placed back into the dealer's dealing stack. The dealers knew that when they saw a dealt face-up card, the game stopped and the dealer would shuffle the cards in his hands and continue dealing.

At one time, new game inventors would send their concepts to Vinny for testing. Any new game with Vinny's stamp of approval would surely hit the casino floor.

Almost any casino general manager would stand up for Vinny; the same holds true for professional blackjack teams (such as M.I.T. and the Greeks), and famous blackjack aficionados (such as Snyder, Rubin, Forte, Munchkin, Carlson, and Grossjean to name a few). He is a unique expert on both sides of the table.