

NEILSEN ESTATE OF CRAIG H

Form SC 13D/A

March 01, 2011

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**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 13D/A

(Rule 13d-101)

**INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN STATEMENTS FILED PURSUANT
TO RULE 13d-1(a) AND AMENDMENTS THERETO FILED
PURSUANT TO RULE 13d-2(a)**

**Under the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934
(Amendment No. 3)**

AMERISTAR CASINOS, INC.

(Name of Issuer)

COMMON STOCK, PAR VALUE \$0.01 PER SHARE

(Title of Class of Securities)

03070Q 10 1

(CUSIP Number)

PETER C. WALSH

3773 HOWARD HUGHES PARKWAY, SUITE 490S

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89169

(702) 567-7000

(Name, Address and Telephone Number of Person Authorized to
Receive Notices and Communications)

February 27, 2011

(Date of Event Which Requires Filing of this Statement)

If the filing person has previously filed a statement on Schedule 13G to report the acquisition that is the subject of this Schedule 13D, and is filing this schedule because of Rule 13d-1(e), 13d-1(f) or 13d-1(g), check the following box.

Note: Schedules filed in paper format shall include a signed original and five copies of the schedule, including all exhibits. See Rule 13d-7 for other parties to whom copies are to be sent.

() The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which would alter disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required on the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be filed for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the Notes).

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ITEM 4. PURPOSE OF TRANSACTION.

ITEM 5. INTEREST IN SECURITIES OF THE ISSUER

ITEM 6. CONTRACTS, ARRANGEMENTS, UNDERSTANDINGS OR RELATIONSHIPS WITH
RESPECT TO SECURITIES OF THE ISSUER.

ITEM 7. MATERIALS TO BE FILED AS EXHIBITS.

SIGNATURE

EXHIBIT INDEX

EX-99.2

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CUSIP NO. 03070Q 10 1 SCHEDULE 13D/A PAGE 2 OF 8 PAGES

1 NAME OF REPORTING PERSONS
I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NOS. OF ABOVE PERSONS (ENTITIES ONLY)

Estate of Craig H. Neilsen

2 CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP*

- (a)
- (b)

3 SEC USE ONLY

4 SOURCE OF FUNDS

OO (1)

5 CHECK BOX IF DISCLOSURE OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO
ITEMS 2(d) OR 2(e)

6 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

United States

7 SOLE VOTING POWER

NUMBER OF 31,528,400

SHARES SHARED VOTING POWER
BENEFICIALLY **8**
OWNED BY 0

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| EACH REPORTING PERSON | 9 | SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER 31,528,400 |
| WITH | 10 | SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER 0 |

11 AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON
31,528,400

12 CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (11) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES*
o

13 PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (11)
54.1%

14 TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON*
OO (2)

(1) The securities beneficially owned by the Estate of Craig H. Neilsen (the "Estate") were acquired as a result of the death of Craig H. Neilsen on November 19, 2006. The securities were acquired by the Estate by operation of law upon Craig H. Neilsen's death. Therefore, this item is not applicable.

(2) The Reporting Person is an estate to which the securities reported herein passed upon the death of Craig H. Neilsen.

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1 NAME OF REPORTING PERSONS
I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NOS. OF ABOVE PERSONS (ENTITIES ONLY)

Ray H. Neilsen

2 CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP*

- (a)
- (b)

3 SEC USE ONLY

4 SOURCE OF FUNDS

OO (3)

5 CHECK BOX IF DISCLOSURE OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO
ITEMS 2(d) OR 2(e)

6 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

United States

7 SOLE VOTING POWER

NUMBER OF 204,169 (4)

8 SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY

SHARED VOTING POWER

31,528,400 (5)

9 EACH SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

REPORTING

PERSON 204,169 (4)

WITH SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

10

31,528,400 (5)

AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

11

31,732,569

CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (11) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES*

12

PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (11)

13

54.5%

TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON*

14

IN

(3) Ray H. Neilsen is a co-personal representative and co-executor of the Estate. The securities beneficially owned by the Estate were acquired as a result of the death of Craig H. Neilsen. The securities were acquired by the Estate by operation of law upon Craig H. Neilsen's death. Therefore, this item is not applicable.

(4) Includes 130,963 shares subject to options exercisable within 60 days. These options have been granted pursuant to standard Company option plans.

(5) Includes 31,528,400 shares held by the Estate.

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1 NAME OF REPORTING PERSONS
I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NOS. OF ABOVE PERSONS (ENTITIES ONLY)

Gordon R. Kanofsky

2 CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP*

- (a)
- (b)

3 SEC USE ONLY

4 SOURCE OF FUNDS

OO (6)

5 CHECK BOX IF DISCLOSURE OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO
ITEMS 2(d) OR 2(e)

6 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

United States

7 SOLE VOTING POWER

NUMBER OF 60,500 (7)

8 SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY

SHARED VOTING POWER

31,984,084 (8)

9 EACH SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

REPORTING

PERSON 60,500 (7)

WITH SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

10

31,984,084 (8)

AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

11

32,044,584

CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (11) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES*

12

o

PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (11)

13

55.0%

TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON*

14

IN

(6) Gordon R. Kanofsky is a co-personal representative and co-executor of the Estate. The securities beneficially owned by the Estate were acquired as a result of the death of Craig H. Neilsen. The securities were acquired by the Estate by operation of law upon Craig H. Neilsen's death. Therefore, this item is not applicable.

(7) Consists of 60,500 shares that may become distributable to Mr. Kanofsky within 60 days under certain circumstances with respect of vested restricted stock units. These restricted stock units have been granted pursuant to standard Company compensation plans.

(8) Includes 31,528,400 shares held by the Estate. Also includes 64,381 shares held by the Kanofsky Family Trust Dated January 27, 1998 (the Kanofsky Trust), of which Mr. Kanofsky and his spouse are co-trustees, and 391,303 shares subject to options which are exercisable within 60 days, which options are also held by the Kanofsky Trust. These options have been granted pursuant to standard Company option plans.

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ITEM 6. CONTRACTS, ARRANGEMENTS, UNDERSTANDINGS OR RELATIONSHIPS WITH RESPECT TO SECURITIES OF THE ISSUER.

Item 6 of this Schedule 13D is hereby amended to include the following information:

The information set forth in Item 4 above is hereby incorporated by reference in response to this Item 6.

ITEM 7. MATERIALS TO BE FILED AS EXHIBITS.

Item 7 of this Schedule 13D is hereby amended to include the following information:

| Exhibit No. | Description of Exhibit |
|-------------|---|
| 2 | Letter Agreement, dated February 27, 2011, by and between the Estate of Craig H. Neilsen and Ameristar Casinos, Inc. (filed herewith) |

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EXHIBIT INDEX

| Exhibit No. | Description of Exhibit |
|-------------|--|
| 1 | Joint Filing Agreement, dated as of December 15, 2006, by and among the Estate of Craig H. Neilsen, Ray H. Neilsen and Gordon R. Kanofsky (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 1 to the Schedule 13D filed by the Estate of Craig H. Neilsen, Ray H. Neilsen and Gordon R. Kanofsky with the SEC on December 15, 2006). |
| 2 | Letter Agreement, dated February 27, 2011, by and between the Estate of Craig H. Neilsen and Ameristar Casinos, Inc. (filed herewith) |