

OJ SEMANS SR.



<https://largetribes.org/>

OBJECTIVES

Work with Tribes and their entities to improve economic and social conditions for Tribes. Work with the United States Congress to create and change legislation to benefit Tribes as outlined by Treaties. To provide training and education on matters surrounding Public Safety, Transportation, 105 Leasing (BIA), land resources and energy, Federal Communications Commission (FCC), working with infrastructure, Health initiatives, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) funding, Water rights, Missing and Murdered Indigenous People.

EXPERIENCE

Coalition of Large Tribes

Executive Director: April 2019 to Present

Executive Director Legislative Affairs: February 2017 to May 2019

- COLT is a federally chartered corporation under 25 U.S.C. Section 477, as amended and COLT Tribes covers Arizona, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota, Washington State, Wyoming, Utah and consists of 13 Tribes that cover 10 states. COLT, Tribes have 100,000 acres of land or more. Of the 575 recognized Tribes only 53 Tribes meet these criteria and control over 95 percent of all Tribal lands.

- Since my working for COLT in 2017 in various positions I have promoted the sovereign rights of the member tribes to protect, enhance, control, utilize and develop their respective land bases by, Educating the Administration, Congress, public and other tribes, advocating for legislative, regulatory and policy reforms to improve issues. advocating for legislative, regulatory, and policy reforms to improve protection, development and restoration of Indian land and assets, advocating for legislative, regulatory, and policy reforms to have Indian trust lands treated as Indian lands and not public lands under the federal environmental and other federal laws of a general nature applied to Indian tribal and allotted trust lands, Identifying statutory, regulatory, fiscal and policy barriers to Indian land developments, and recommending ways to eliminate or lessen such barriers, advocating and supporting individual tribal issues, advocating for the exercise of tribal sovereignty and jurisdiction to the fullest extent including the sovereign right to develop natural resources, pursue agricultural efforts and develop and enhance Reservation infrastructure such as transportation and water infrastructure, pursue the legal determination that Indian lands are not public lands in both statutory and regulatory provisions promulgated by the United States, advocate for the protection of water rights land bases and other natural resources of Member Tribes, advocate for the protection of the Treaty rights of Member

Tribes and to clarify and enhance the trust responsibility of the United States to Member Tribes including working with Tribes and Federal Agencies on all matter related to Treaties.

Defense Attorney | Rosebud Sioux Indian Reservation

Defense Attorney – 1999 to 2018

Was assigned by the Tribal Court to represent persons accused of crimes, in doing so was called to testify in State and Federal Courts on matters outside the jurisdiction of Tribal Courts. Attended arraignments, Pre Trial hearing, Probable Cause Hearing, Evidentiary hearing, Bench Trial and Jury Trials.

Would serve as an Administrative Judge for hearing within the Tribal Programs.

Chief Public Defender | Rosebud Sioux Indian Reservation

Chief Public Defender – 1996 to 1999

- Represented all indigent people charged with crimes on the Reservation. Defended individuals charged with felonies, misdemeanors, and traffic cases for which a sentence of incarceration may be imposed. Provided effective representation to clients while managing a large caseload.
- Represented juveniles in juvenile delinquency petitions and parents and children in child abuse and neglect cases. Represented indigent people in paternity actions and involuntary commitments to mental health institutions.
- Handled arraignment court and bond court. Met with clients when arrested and obtained their history to make bond arguments to the court. Maintained working relationships with clients in person, by phone and by mail contact.
- Performed as trial counsel by representing defendants during courtroom proceedings. Researched case law, communicated with defendant to determine trial strategy such as cross-examination procedures, witness selection, jury selection, testimony decisions and opening and closing arguments.
- Represented defendants during other court proceedings. Prepared pre-trial motions such as Answer to Discovery, Motions to Suppress Evidence, Motions to Dismiss and Motions to Additional Discovery, which are required to be filed and a hearing set to ensure that they are carried out properly. Prepared post-trial matters such as motions to withdraw pleas, motions to reconsider sentence and post-conviction petitions.
- Trained and advised by new attorneys and student volunteers. Recruited and trained 3 or more law students which allowed the latter to serve as interns and assist in research, trial preparation, witness preparation and assist in trial procedure.

Rosebud Sioux Investigative Services-Rosebud Sioux Indian Reservation

Co-owner – 1992 to 2022

- Conducted investigations in Criminal and Civil matters in Tribal, State and Federal Jurisdictions.
- Provided in-depth case report to clients and testified in Tribal, State and Federal Courts in South Dakota.
- Because I am a member of good standing with the Sicangu Oyate Bar Association I was also able to represent individuals on Criminal and Civil complaints in Tribal Court.
- Filed cases to the Rosebud Sioux Tribe Supreme Court that have overturned rulings by sitting judges.
- Conducted background investigations for the Rosebud Sioux Tribe Law Enforcement Services and Detention Center.
- Heard matters as an Administrative Judges and Hearing Officer.

Law Enforcement Services | Tribal and Bureau Officer

Law Enforcement Experience: 1975 to 1992

Served as a Police Officer, Sergeant of Police, Captain, Special Agent

Working in Law Enforcement I have investigated from minor violations, assaults, aggravated assault, Sexual assaults of adult and minors, and homicides.

Two cases that live with me every day are the homicides of 3 Police Officers the first being a cold case on the Spirit Lake Indian Reservation in North Dakota (Then called Devils Lake Indian Reservation) in 1983 when Eddie Peltier who was a Tribal Police Officer, was accepted to the North Dakota Highway Patrol was killed. I was assigned as the Agency Special Officer at Spirit Lake Indian Reservation in 1984 and worked closely with Federal, State, County and local law enforcement and reported to the US Attorneys office. This case was complex and later its was determined that the then Police Captain, conducted a search in the area using the latter identified suspect including his son helped conduct the search. In 1986 a trial was held and 1 person was convicted of 1st degree murder and another of 2nd degree murder.

In 1986 I was assigned as the Agency Special Officer in the community of Tuba City Arizona within the exterior boundaries of the Navajo Nation when Police Officers Andy Begay and Roy Stanley were shot and killed while investigating a party where alcohol was being used. I worked closely with Federal, State, County and local law enforcement and reported to the US Attorney's office and in April 1988 4 individuals were charged with the murders.

My experience now helps with advising COLT Tribes on setting up MMIP training using veteran investigators, working with Tribal and National Domestic Violence organizations, which includes inviting these organization to attend MMIP training. COLT plans on bringing MMIP training to the States where COLT Tribes are located reducing the cost and travel time for the Tribes,

Board Member | Rosebud Sioux Indian Reservation

Board Member

- Board Member on the T-Mobile's External Diversity and Inclusion Council: (Past)
- Board Member/Chairman Sicangu Co the Economic Arm of the Rosebud Sioux Tribes
- Board Member Rosebud Economic Development Corporation
- Board Member Rosebud Tribal Utilities Commission (Past)
- Board Member RST Health Board (Past)
- Board Member by Proxy – GPTCA & COLT (Past)
- Vice President RST Judiciary - Past
- Board Member RST Police Commission – Past

EDUCATION/AWARDS

- Doctor of Humane Letters – honoris causa - 2017 – Clairmont Graduate University
- Tribal Bar –Sicangu Oyate Bar Association
- Supervisory Training Marana Arizona
- White collar criminal investigation, Artesia NM
- Homicide Investigation, Pierre SD, Carson City Nevada
- Federal Criminal Investigation Training, Glencoe Georgia
- Basic Police Officers Standard of Training. Pierre SD
- 1975, GED - Sinte Gleska University
- Basic Training, United States Navy, San Diego CA