

Jonodev Osceola Chaudhuri

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC)** Washington, D.C.; September 2013-Present
Chairman (Senate-confirmed in April 2015); Acting Chairman (Oct. 2013-April 2015)
Chief federal official overseeing the \$31.2B Indian gaming industry, comprising approximately 500 gaming facilities, operated by 244 tribal nations across 29 states.
- Shaped national policy and issued key decisions during a time of significant industry growth (over 12% / approx. \$4B) and critical court decisions.
 - Advanced federal policy of tribal self-determination through actions involving interpretation of IGRA's land provisions (e.g., a recent NIGC ruling upholding the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska's right to game on certain lands) and creation of NIGC core initiatives.
 - Coordinated key *amicus* briefs with DOJ, e.g., U.S. brief in *Bay Mills* Supreme Court case.
 - Issued targeted and sound enforcement actions, including the novel settlement with an OK tribe that shed light on harmful third-party activities.
 - Testified before the Senate five times and regularly engaged with tribal leaders, members of Congress, and leaders at federal agencies, including DOJ, DOI, FBI, DHS, IRS, and Treasury.
- U.S. Department of the Interior** Washington, D.C.; June 2012-September 2013
Senior Counselor to the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs (AS-IA)
Advised the AS-IA and helped develop regulations and policies covering various national issues, including gaming, land-into-trust, energy, economic development, recognition, Alaska affairs, child welfare, and justice services.
- Played a critical role in the development of new regulations allowing Alaska tribes to place land into trust, as well as the development of new rules relating to tribal recognition, the Buy Indian Act, and Indian Child Welfare Act guidelines.
 - On behalf of the AS-IA and/or the Department, played a leadership role in interagency and interdisciplinary policy efforts, including the national Public Law 477 federal-tribal workgroup, US Interagency Council on Homelessness, the Labor Force Report Workgroup, DOI's Renewable Energy Strike Team, and a workgroup that successfully created a national model for abuse and assault policies at tribal colleges.
- Puyallup Tribe of Indians** Tacoma, WA; April 2011-May 2012
Associate Judge
Presided over criminal and juvenile dockets in addition to hearing select civil litigation cases.
- Maricopa County Public Defender's Office** Phoenix, AZ; December 2010-April 2011
Deputy Public Defender
Handled approx. 100 felony cases per month. 75% dismissal rate at preliminary hearing stage.
- The Chaudhuri Law Office, PLLC** Tempe, AZ; February 2006-December 2010
Managing Attorney
Founded and managed full-service Indian law firm, serving tribal, corporate, and individual clients on commercial litigation, gaming, governance, and economic development matters.
- Representative matters included commercial contract negotiations and litigation, multi-million-dollar arbitration proceedings, federal tax litigation for a large Western OK tribe, contract negotiations and employment litigation for a large AZ tribe, and full-service representation of tribal telecom entrepreneur.

Snell & Wilmer, L.L.P.

Phoenix, AZ; August 2001-February 2006

Associate

Practiced in commercial litigation and business and finance practice groups. Represented tribal and corporate clients throughout the nation with a concentration in commercial transactions, administrative law, and cultural and environmental protection. Oversaw junior associates and managed tribal legal services department during extended search for director.

Judicial Clerk – Honorable Noel Fidel, Arizona Court of Appeals (2000-2001)

Judicial Clerk – Honorable James M. Ackerman, Arizona Court of Appeals (1999-2000)

Law Clerk – Federal Public Defender’s Office (1999); Muscogee (Creek) Nation Supreme Court (1998); Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Court (1997, 1999); Maricopa County Superior Court, Honorable James H. Keppel (1997)

APPELLATE JUDGE APPOINTMENTS

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Supreme Court Okmulgee, OK; 2006-2012

San Manuel Mission Band of Indians Appeals Court Highland, CA; 2009-2012

Gila River Indian Community Court of Appeals Sacaton, AZ; 2008-2010

Yavapai-Apache Nation Court of Appeals Camp Verde, AZ; 2005-2009

Respective Titles: Chief Justice / Appellate Judge / Appellate Judge / Associate Justice

Presided over full range of civil and criminal appeals. Developed common law in keeping with the values and cultures of the respective tribal nations. As Chief Justice of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, oversaw budget and managed all personnel and administrative matters.

PUBLICATIONS

Re-Creating the Circle: The Renewal of American Indian Self-Determination, University of New Mexico Press, 2011, LaDonna Harris, Stephen Sachs, Barbara Morris, *et al.* Contributing author (contributions include materials relating to incorporation of traditional norms and cultural practices into formal governance).

Fixing a Hole: Commercial Courts as a Tool for Tribal Economic Development, The Arrow, 2002.

The Yavapai of Fort McDowell, An Outline of Their History and Culture, 4th ed., Mead Publishing, 1995. Chief editor and contributing author.

A Day In the Life of Tribal Court, The Defender, 2000.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Adjunct/Visiting Faculty –

National Judicial College – *Criminal & Civil Jurisdiction, Full Faith & Credit* (2010)

Phoenix College – *Navajo Government* (Spring, 2011)

South Mountain Community College – *American Indian Studies* (Spring, 2010)

Phoenix College – Gaming; Jurisdiction – *Practice Court* (2000-2003)

Culture and Enrichment Coordinator – Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation (1993-1996)

COURT ADMISSIONS

State Bar Licenses: Arizona (Inactive), Washington State (Inactive), and Oklahoma

Federal Admissions: United States District Court, Districts of Arizona and Western Oklahoma

Tribal Courts: Member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Bar and have practiced before the Intertribal Court of Southern California, the Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribal Court, and the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Tribal Court

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Oklahoma Indian Gaming Association, Modern Day Warrior Award

Award given by the association in 2016 for “Lifetime Achievement” in gaming.

American Bar Association Death Penalty Moratorium Implementation Project

2006 ABA comprehensive assessment of AZ death penalty standards.

Peer Grant Reviewer – U. S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs

Reviewed variety of tribal grant applications, in '09 and '12, including CTAS.

Native-POLL-ooza!™

Principal founder of grassroots, non-profit organization started in 2004 to increase Native American voter registration and political participation.

National Congress of American Indians Native Vote National Election Protection Program

Past Arizona director (2004) of national effort to mobilize attorney volunteers to serve as poll-watchers throughout Indian country.

INDNS List

Past Arizona director of organization created to identify and support Native American candidates for elected office.

Native American Community Organizing Project

Community organizer and *pro bono* counsel for grassroots off-reservation Native advocacy group working to improve health care, housing, educational, and other social service needs.

Snell & Wilmer Community Leadership Award, 2003

REPRESENTATIVE PRESENTATIONS

At least 75 presentations from '12 to '18 to national and regional conferences and symposia, including NCAI, NIGA, FBA Indian Law Conf., Sovereignty Symposium, NCAIED, NTGCR, USET, AIGA, and CNIGA on behalf of the NIGC or DOI, including various keynote addresses.

NAU CAIED Tribal Economic Outlook Conference, 2016 Keynote

Cornell Tribal Economic Development Summit, 2015 Keynote

Arizona Association for Economic Development, 2012 Tribal Business Symposium, Keynote

Approximately 20-30 CLE and conference presentations on Indian law, economic development, and judicial topics from 1999 until joining DOI in 2012.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES

State Bar of Arizona, Indian Law Section, Executive Council, *Past Chair*

Construction in Indian Country (CIIC) Executive Committee, *Member*

Phoenix Indian Center, *Past Member, Board of Directors*

Arizona State Tribal & Federal Court Forum, *Past State Bar Representative*

Arizona Indian Economic Development Breakfast Forum, *Charter Member*

Phoenix College Tribal Court Advocacy Advisory Committee, *Charter Member*

Dartmouth College Alumni Council, General Council and Nominating Committee, *Past Member*

American Indian Veterans Memorial Organization, *Past Member*

Native American Heritage Preservation Coalition, *Member*

EDUCATION

Cornell Law School, Ithaca, NY (J.D. with concentration in Trial Advocacy, 1999)

Member/General Editor, *Cornell Journal of Law and Public Policy*

Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH (B.A. and Modified Major Certificate, 1993)

Tucker Foundation Fellowship; President, Native Americans at Dartmouth (1992)