

# Jonodev Osceola Chaudhuri

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**The Chaudhuri Law Office, PLLC** McLean, VA (DC Area); October 2021-Present  
*Principal*

Provide legal and strategic advice to tribal nations on a wide range of issues from gaming and economic development, court and constitutional reform, regulatory issues including land into trust projects, and engagement with federal agencies.

**Muscogee (Creek) Nation** Washington, D.C.; May 2019-Present  
*Ambassador for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation*

Serve as chief diplomat of the fourth largest tribal nation in the U.S., engaging with congress and federal agencies, national and international media, and representatives of tribal nations, states, and other governments to advocate for and advance the interests of the Muscogee Nation.

**Quarles & Brady LLP** Washington, D.C.; May 2019-September 2021  
*Partner and Chair of the Indian Law Practice*

Leader of national firm's well-respected Indian law practice, representing tribal nations, tribal citizens, corporations, and individual clients on issues relating to commercial litigation, gaming, governance, tribal sovereignty and self-determination, and economic development.

**National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC)** Washington, D.C.; September 2013-June 2019  
*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% / approximately \$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., the U.S. brief in *Bay Mills* Supreme Court case).
- Issued targeted and sound enforcement actions, including a novel settlement with an Oklahoma 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, federal recognition, Alaska affairs, Indian 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.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE CONTINUED

**Puyallup Tribe of Indians** Tacoma, WA; April 2011-May 2012  
*Associate Judge*  
Presided over criminal, civil, and juvenile dockets.

**Maricopa County Public Defender's Office** Phoenix, AZ; December 2010-April 2011  
*Deputy Public Defender*  
Handled approximately 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 Oklahoma tribe, contract negotiations and employment litigation for a large Arizona tribe, and full-service representation of tribal telecom entrepreneur.

**Snell & Wilmer, LLP** 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

- Recent Updates in Indian Gaming*, Indian Gaming Magazine (Oct. 2021), available at: <https://www.indiangaming.com/legal-front-recent-updates-in-indian-gaming-as-the-dust-settles/>
- The Past May be Prologue, But it Does Not Dictate Our Future*, 56 TULSA L. REV. 369 (Spring, 2021), available at: <https://digitalcommons.law.utulsa.edu/tlr/vol56/iss3/6>
- Reflection on McGirt v. Oklahoma*, 134 HARV. L. REV. F. 82, (November 2020), available at: <https://harvardlawreview.org/2020/11/reflection-on-mcgirt-v-oklahoma/>
- Our Muscogee People Suffered for Generations in the Hope of a Better Tomorrow. It's Finally Here*, Washington Post (Jul. 14, 2020), available at: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/our-muscogee-people-suffered-for-generations-in-the-hope-of-a-better-tomorrow-its-finally-here/2020/07/14/3caf0638-c60a-11ea-8ffe-372be8d82298\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/our-muscogee-people-suffered-for-generations-in-the-hope-of-a-better-tomorrow-its-finally-here/2020/07/14/3caf0638-c60a-11ea-8ffe-372be8d82298_story.html)
- Unity: The Path Forward in Compacts*, Indian Gaming Magazine (Oct. 2019), available at: [http://www.indiangaming.com/istore/Oct19\\_Chauthuri.pdf](http://www.indiangaming.com/istore/Oct19_Chauthuri.pdf)
- A Great Day to Be Muscogee*, Indian Country Today (Sept. 2019), available at: <https://indiancountrytoday.com/opinion/a-great-day-to-be-muscogee-bGh8NDVQrUuQyb4bl2rJ3w>
- Fundamental Principles of Indian Policy Should Guide Our Response to Emerging Trends*, Indian Gaming Magazine (Aug. 2019), available at: [http://www.indiangaming.com/istore/Aug19\\_Chauthuri.pdf](http://www.indiangaming.com/istore/Aug19_Chauthuri.pdf)
- Reflections of a NIGC Chairman*, Indian Gaming Magazine (Apr. 2019), available at: [http://www.indiangaming.com/istore/Apr19\\_Jonodev.pdf](http://www.indiangaming.com/istore/Apr19_Jonodev.pdf)
- Looking Back to Look Ahead*, Tribal Government Gaming (Feb. 2019), available at: <https://tribalgovernmentgaming.com/article/looking-back-to-look-ahead/>
- The Future is Not Yet Written: The Importance of Adherence to Self-Determination Principles in the Next 30 Years of IGRA*, Indian Gaming Magazine (Oct. 2018), available at: [http://www.indiangaming.com/istore/Oct18\\_Chauthuri.pdf](http://www.indiangaming.com/istore/Oct18_Chauthuri.pdf)
- Sound Regulation Grounded in Respect for Sovereignty and Self-Determination: Lessons from Three Decades of IGRA*, Indian Gaming Magazine (Apr. 2018), available at: [http://www.indiangaming.com/istore/Apr18\\_Chauthuri.pdf](http://www.indiangaming.com/istore/Apr18_Chauthuri.pdf)
- Raising the Pillars*, Tribal Government Gaming (Apr. 2017), available at: <https://tribalgovernmentgaming.com/article/raising-the-pillars/>
- Partnerships and Pathways: Latest Numbers Reflect Health of Indian Gaming Industry*, Indian Gaming Magazine (Aug. 2016), available at: [http://www.indiangaming.com/istore/Aug16\\_Chauthuri.pdf](http://www.indiangaming.com/istore/Aug16_Chauthuri.pdf)
- Identifying Gamesmanship: Protecting the Integrity of Indian Gaming*, Indian Gaming Magazine (Apr. 2016), available at: [http://www.indiangaming.com/istore/Apr16\\_Chauthuri.pdf](http://www.indiangaming.com/istore/Apr16_Chauthuri.pdf)
- Identifying Gamesmanship*, Tribal Government Gaming (Jan. 2016), available at: <https://tribalgovernmentgaming.com/article/identifying-gamesmanship/>
- 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*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed., Mead Publishing, 1995. Chief editor and contributing author.

## 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:** U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, United States District Court, Districts of Arizona and Western Oklahoma, District of Columbia (pending)

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

## AWARDS

### **International Masters of Gaming Law, Regulator of the Year-Indian Country**

Award given in 2019 for service as Chairman of the NIGC

### **Native American Bar Association (DC), Excellence in Government Service**

Received 2019 award for best federal/state governmental official

### **Oklahoma Indian Gaming Association, Modern Day Warrior Award**

Award given in 2016 for “Lifetime Achievement” in gaming

### **Best Lawyers in America, Native American Law**

Listed in 2021

### **Snell & Wilmer Community Leadership Award, 2003**

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

### **American Bar Association Death Penalty Moratorium Implementation Project**

2006 ABA comprehensive assessment of Arizona death penalty standards.

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

Reviewed variety of tribal grant applications, in 2009 and 2012, 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.

## **REPRESENTATIVE PRESENTATIONS**

Over 100 presentations to national and regional conferences and symposia, including NCAI, NIGA, FBA Indian Law Conference, Sovereignty Symposium, NTGCR, USET, AIGA, and CNIGA, including numerous keynote addresses and plenary presentations. Representative examples include:

- NLADA (National Legal Aid and Defenders Association), 2021 Keynote
- NCAIED (Reservation Economic Summit), 2020 Keynote
- National Intertribal Tax Alliance, 2019 Keynote
- The Future of American Indian Gaming: the Next 30 Years, Brookings Institute, 2019 Keynote
- 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

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

National Intertribal Tax Alliance (NITA), Board Member  
International Masters of Gaming Law, *Voted-in Member*  
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)

President, National Native American Law Students Association

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)