



Biography

DIRECTOR OF COMPLIANCE (Acting) TOM CUNNINGHAM



Tom Cunningham (Seminole Nation) is the acting Director of Compliance at the National Indian Gaming Commission, an independent federal regulatory agency established within the Department of the Interior. In this position, Cunningham monitors compliance of tribal gaming operations on Indian lands in accordance with the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act and NIGC regulations for the Division of Compliance, which encompasses eight Regional Offices and the Audit and Training Programs. In addition, Cunningham will provide support in implementing the Commission's priorities.

Prior to becoming Director in June of 2020, Cunningham served as the Assistant Director of Compliance since April of 2017 and prior to that he served as the Region Director of NIGC's Oklahoma City office in 2009 and a Field Investigator for the NIGC's Tulsa, Okla. Office beginning in 2007. In these roles, Cunningham ensured tribal compliance with the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, by providing training and technical assistance. Before joining the NIGC, Cunningham spent thirteen years in law enforcement including assignment to the Drug Enforcement Administration, and working joint investigations with the

Federal Bureau of Investigations and the US Attorney's Office. Cunningham also served as Seminole Nation of Oklahoma Gaming Commission Chairman in 2003.

Cunningham is the recipient of the Director's Award for Distinguished Service from the White House's Office of the National Drug Control Policy in 2006 and the NIGC Chairman's Award in 2017.

Cunningham received a Bachelor of Science degree from East Central University, Ada, Okla. in 2003 and is pursuing a Master's of Jurisprudence from the University of Tulsa, Okla.

The Indian Gaming Regulatory Act created the [National Indian Gaming Commission](#) to support tribal self-sufficiency and the integrity of Indian gaming. NIGC oversees the efficient regulation of 520 gaming establishments operated by 247 tribes across 29 states.

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