



Biography

ACTING CHIEF OF STAFF DUSTIN THOMAS



Dustin Thomas (Mohawk/Oneida) is the Acting Chief of Staff for the National Indian Gaming Commission, an independent federal regulatory agency established within the Department of the Interior. As such, Thomas is charged with implementing the Commission's directives relating to its initiatives, government-to-government consultation, training and technical assistance and enforcement efforts. In addition, he manages the day-to-day operations of the Commission, including the compliance, finance, public affairs and technology divisions.

Prior to becoming Acting Chief of Staff in June of 2020, Thomas served as Director of Compliance where he monitored compliance of tribal operations, which encompasses eight regional offices and the audit and training programs. Before joining NIGC, Thomas served as the Chief Risk and Compliance Officer for the Potawatomi Hotel and Casino. His work focused on executive leadership for Compliance, Internal Audit, Security and Risk & Safety. Thomas began his gaming career in 2005, as a Security Officer for the Seneca Gaming Corporation and eventually became the Lead Gaming Inspector for the Seneca Gaming

Authority, overseeing regulatory compliance for the Seneca Gaming Corporation and Seneca Gaming and Entertainment.

In 2018, Thomas was named to the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development's 40 Under 40 and was also awarded the Emerging Leaders of Gaming recognition by Global Gaming Business magazine.

Thomas received a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and Law from California University of Pennsylvania, California, PA and a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI. He also holds professional certifications as a Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE) and Certified Compliance and Ethics Professional (CCEP).

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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