



# Biography

## CHIEF OF STAFF DUSTIN THOMAS



Dustin Thomas (Mohawk/Oneida) is the 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 strategic plan, special emphasis 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 Chief of Staff in September of 2020, Thomas served as Acting Chief of Staff since June of 2020. Thomas also served as Director of Compliance since July of 2017 where he monitored compliance of tribal gaming operations, which encompasses eight regional offices and the audit and training programs. Before joining the 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 and served as the primary liaison with federal, state and tribal regulatory officials. 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 graduated with 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 524 gaming establishments operated by 248 tribes across 29 states.*

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