



# Biography

## CHAIRMAN JONODEV OSCEOLA CHAUDHURI



Jonodev Osceola Chaudhuri (Muscogee (Creek)) was nominated by President Barack Obama and confirmed by the United States Senate on April 16, 2015 and sworn in by Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell on May 13, 2015. As the seventh presidentially appointed and Senate-Confirmed Chair, Chairman Chaudhuri brings to the NIGC extensive policy, legal, and judicial experience and a lifelong commitment to serving the Native American community. His varied experiences each stem from his understanding of the connection between the development of strong governmental institutions and Native American self-determination.

Chairman Chaudhuri was initially appointed to the Commission in September of 2013 by the Secretary of the Interior where he served as Associate Commissioner and Vice Chair. President Obama later appointed Chairman Chaudhuri as Acting Chairman in October 2013. Before joining the NIGC, Chairman Chaudhuri was Senior Counselor to the Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs where he provided guidance and assistance on a wide range of national policy issues including Indian gaming, economic development, energy, Alaskan affairs, and tribal recognition.

Chairman Chaudhuri is an attorney by trade and practiced law for more than 15 years, primarily as an attorney serving tribes and tribal entities. Additionally, Chairman Chaudhuri served in private practice as a judge on five different tribal courts, including serving as Chief Justice of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Supreme Court. Chairman Chaudhuri's professional background also includes advocacy as a community organizer, adjunct professor, and author.

Originally from Tempe, Ariz., Chairman Chaudhuri graduated in 1993 with a B.A. from Dartmouth College, N.H. and a J.D. from Cornell Law School, N.Y. in 1999. Chairman Chaudhuri's volunteer and lifetime service has been spent on many issues regarding underrepresented communities.

*The [Indian Gaming Regulatory Act](#) created the National Indian Gaming Commission to support tribal self-sufficiency and the integrity of Indian gaming. The NIGC has developed four initiatives to support its mission including (1) To protect against anything that amounts to gamesmanship on the backs of tribes; (2) To stay ahead of the Technology Curve; (3) Rural outreach; and (4) To maintain a strong workforce within NIGC and with its tribal regulatory partners. NIGC oversees the efficient regulation of 497 gaming establishments operated by 244 tribes across 29 states. The Commission's dedication to compliance with the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act ensures the integrity of the growing \$29.9 billion Indian gaming industry. To learn more, visit [www.nigc.gov](http://www.nigc.gov) and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).*

Updated 11/22/2016