



Biography

CHAIRMAN

E. SEQUOYAH SIMERMEYER



E. Sequoyah Simermeyer (Coharie) is the Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission. The United States Senate unanimously confirmed his nomination in November 2019 after which he was appointed by President Donald J. Trump to a three-year term. As Chairman, he is responsible for the federal regulatory agency's daily operations including its eight regional offices as well as its national and local training and technical assistance efforts. He has the authority to issue civil enforcement fines and temporary closure orders for regulatory violations by gaming operations on Indian lands. As a member of the National Indian Gaming Commission's three-member commission, he is responsible for regulating and ensuring the integrity of the more than 520 Indian gaming facilities, associated with nearly 247 tribes across 29 states.

Before serving as Chairman, Simermeyer was appointed by the Secretary of the Interior in November 2015 to serve as the National Indian Gaming Commission's Associate Commissioner. As an Associate Commissioner he heard appeals before the full Commission, promulgated Agency regulations, and voted on matters related to the Agency's budget. Additionally, he directed the Agency's Office of Self-Regulation during which time the Commission issued certificates of self-regulation to two of the current six self-regulated tribes.

Prior to joining the NIGC, Simermeyer advised the Chairman to the United States Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. In that capacity he helped draft legislative proposals and committee reports, prepared oversight and legislative hearings, and advanced the Committee's work on priority issues facing Indian country. Simermeyer also served as Deputy Chief of Staff and as counselor to the Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs.

Simermeyer's professional and academic experience has focused on government-to-government relationships that impact federal Indian policy and which empower tribal communities to provide for their people. Simermeyer was named to the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development's 40 Under 40 list in 2011 and was a 2014 nominee for the Native American Bar Association–D.C. Chapter Award for "Excellence in Government Service."

Simermeyer graduated with a bachelor's of arts degree from Dartmouth College, N.H., a Masters of Study in Environmental Law from Vermont Law School, Vt., and a J.D. from Cornell Law School, N.Y.

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.