



Biography

CHIEF OF STAFF SHANNON O'LOUGHLIN



Shannon O'Loughlin is a citizen of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and serves as the Chief of Staff at the National Indian Gaming Commission. As such, O'Loughlin 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, she manages the day-to-day operations of the Commission, including the compliance, finance, public affairs and technology divisions.

O'Loughlin joined the NIGC in May 2015. Prior to joining the federal government, O'Loughlin was in the private sector, heading-up and managing a large national firm's Indian law practice group out of the firm's Washington office. O'Loughlin brings more than 16 years of Indian Country legal and policy work to the Commission. While serving as a private practice attorney, she served Indian Country clients by providing legal expertise in the fields of federal Indian law, Indian Nations internal law, and indigenous peoples international law and policy to strengthen, maintain and protect Indian nation sovereignty, self-determination and culture.

O'Loughlin brings to the Commission an understanding of the importance of maintaining strong Indian Country and stakeholder relationships. She worked on economic development projects, environmental matters and creating legal infrastructure for Indian Nations. O'Loughlin has prior experience with the Department of Interior, having been appointed by Secretary Sally Jewell to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Review Committee in 2013. She is also a member of the Indian Law Section of the Federal Bar Association, the National Native American Bar Association, the Native American Bar Association of New York, and the Lawyers Committee for Cultural Heritage. Ms. O'Loughlin was recently appointed by President Barack Obama to the Cultural Property Advisory Committee within the State Department, Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs, which advises the President on appropriate U.S. action in response to requests from foreign governments for assistance in protecting their cultural heritage.

O'Loughlin received her bachelor's degree in American Indian Studies from California State University at Long Beach. She earned both her master's degree and Juris Doctorate in Federal Indian and Tribal Law Policy at the University of Arizona in Tucson, Ariz.

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 and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).