



Biography

OKLAHOMA CITY REGION DIRECTOR THOMAS CUNNINGHAM



Thomas Cunningham is the Oklahoma City Region Director at the National Indian Gaming Commission and a member of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma. As the Region Director, Cunningham oversees technical assistance, training and compliance efforts for 66 Indian gaming facilities owned and operated by 22 federally recognized tribes located in the western half of Oklahoma and the state of Texas.

Prior to becoming Region Director in June 2009, Cunningham served as a Field Investigator for the NIGC's Tulsa, Okla. office. In this role, Cunningham ensured tribal compliance with the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, by providing training and technical assistance. Before joining the NIGC, Cunningham spent thirteen years in law enforcement including stints at the Drug Enforcement Administration and the US Attorney's Office. Cunningham also served as Seminole Nation of Oklahoma Gaming Commission Chairman in 2003.

Cunningham is the recipient of the Director's Award for Distinguished Service from the White House's Office of the National Drug Control Policy in 2006.

Cunningham received a Bachelor of Science degree from East Central University, Ada, Okla. in 2003 and is pursuing a Master's of Jurisprudence from the University of Tulsa, Okla.

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](#).