



Biography

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF COMPLIANCE THOMAS CUNNINGHAM



Thomas Cunningham is the Assistant Director of Compliance at the National Indian Gaming Commission and a member of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma. As the Assistant Director, Cunningham will oversee the Commission's day-to-day compliance operations in accordance with the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) regulations, Commission directives, and applicable provisions of tribal gaming ordinances and/or resolutions. In addition, Cunningham will provide support in implementing the Commission's priorities.

Prior to becoming Assistant Director in April of 2017, Cunningham served as the Region Director of NIGC's Oklahoma City office since 2009 and a Field Investigator for the NIGC's Tulsa, Okla. Office beginning in 2007. In these roles, 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 assignment to the Drug Enforcement Administration, and working joint investigations with the Federal Bureau of Investigations 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](#).