

Phillip H. Gover

EDUCATION

Arizona State University

Juris Doctorate

Coursework focus on Federal Indian Law, Natural Resources, and Environmental law.
Elective coursework included Juvenile Justice and Administrative law.

Stanford University

Bachelor of Arts in American Studies, Race and Ethnicity

Elected to many leadership positions within the student Native American community.
Founding member of a student dance group for educational presentations to the local community.

RELEVANT EMPLOYMENT

July 2014 - present

Adams 12 Five Star Schools

Thornton, CO

Native American Youth Advocate

Position created from Federal Title VI grant to support Native American students and families. Responsibilities include ensuring equitable access and support for Native American students throughout the school district. Liaison between families and school administrations. Create and implement culturally based programs for Native American students and families. Provide mentorship and counsel for Native students. Create, support and utilize strong parent advocacy through the grant's required parent advisory committee. Create learning programs for presentation within schools for all students.

Sep. 2007 – Oct. 2012

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

Scottsdale, AZ

Deputy Defense Advocate

Preparation of criminal and juvenile offender defense cases. Research and draft necessary legal motions, conduct client and witness interviews, negotiate with opposing counsel, and present cases in trial. Work included dependency matters.

Oct. 2005 – Sep. 2006

Pawnee Nation Gaming Corporation

Pawnee, OK

Member, Board of Directors

Oversight of management of the gaming industry within the Pawnee Nation.

Sept. 2005 – Aug. 2006

Pitchlynn and Associates

Norman, OK

Clerkship

Conducted generalized research and memo drafting for a small firm that handled general

and federal Indian law cases. Researched topics ranging from reservation status to family law issues.

Sept. 2003 – Sept. 2005

Chickasaw Nation, Child Support Services

Ada, OK

Tribal Court Advocate

Responsible for enforcing the child support codes through a variety of tribal legal systems. Area of responsibility, within the Bureau of Indian Affairs courts, included Seminole and Anadarko agencies and the tribal courts for the Choctaw and Kickapoo Nations.

Legal Assistant

Responsibilities included preparation of legal documents; court dockets record management; keeping current on applicable child support laws, federal, state, and tribal; and customer service.

June 2003 – August 2003

Cherokee Nation, Department of Justice

Tahlequah, OK

Summer Court Clerk

Utilized online legal research tools and writing skills to draft memos and code for parts of the family code. Performed Westlaw based research and proficient in the Lexis-Nexis tools.

Sep. 1998 - Sep. 1999

Ft. McDowell Yavapai Nation

Fountain Hills, AZ

Library Assistant

In addition to general library support duties also created culturally based learning events and programs utilizing the unique resources available in the Ft. McDowell Yavapai Nation.

LEGAL INTERNSHIPS

Summer 2001

Ft. McDowell Yavapai Nation

Fountain Hills, AZ

Summer 2000

Colorado River Indian Tribes

Parker, AZ

Summer 1998

National Indian Gaming Association

Washington D.C.

Responsible for researching topics and drafting memos on a variety of tribal related matters.

AWARDS and HONORS

- 2021-2022 Strengths in Action Award (Engage) recipient for Adams 12 Five Star Schools. District award for engagement with the community in an extraordinary way.
- Honored as a headman dancer, master of ceremonies, and arena director for many different Native community organizations and tribes.
- Currently moderating a Constitution Convention for the Pawnee Nation.