

Joel West Williams

**1514 P Street, NW (Rear) Suite D
Washington, DC 20005-1910**

(202) 785-4166

» Experience

Native American Rights Fund, Washington, DC

Staff Attorney, January 2013 - present

- Tribal Supreme Court Project
- Judicial Selection Project
- Indian Education
- Voting Rights
- Tribal Water Rights Settlements
- Religious Liberty and Sacred Places
- Food and Agriculture

Vermont Law School, South Royalton, VT

Adjunct Professor of Law, December 2018 - present

- Teaching Native Americans and the Law, 3 credit course taught online each spring semester
- Restorative Justice in Indigenous Communities, 3 credit course taught online one fall semester

Cherokee Nation

Senior Legislative Officer, July 2011 - December 2012

- Supervise Washington, D.C. office
- Responsible for government-to-government relationship between the country's largest Indian tribe and the federal government
- Analyze federal law and policy, provide legal interpretations, and determine tribal impact
- Formulate advocacy strategy and tactics
- Advocate for specific legislation, agency rules, and policy
- Represented the tribe at the 2011 White House Tribal Nations Summit
- Tribe's alternate delegate to the National Congress of American Indians
- Organized White House Rural Round Table Native Food and Agriculture Summit
- Prominent issue areas include: PL-477/Self-Governance; NAHASDA; Law Enforcement; TANF; Native 8(a); Budget and Appropriations; Agriculture and Food Policy; Education; Health; Transportation; Renewable Energy Development; Gaming.

Governor's Office Of General Counsel, Commonwealth Of Pennsylvania

Assistant Counsel, May 2002 - July 2011

Litigation attorney assigned to Department of Transportation. Litigated 200 trials, appeals, and administrative hearings per year. Also appointed as an OGC mediator in 2004 and Governor's Office Election Liaison in 2008. Practice areas: Environmental Law; Historic Preservation; Employment; Tort; Eminent Domain; Motor Vehicle Enforcement; Land Use and Zoning; Constitutional Law; Administrative Law; Real Property.

» Experience (cont.)**Environmental Law Clinic, Widener University School Of Law**

Student Attorney, August 2002 - May 2003

- Certified in U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.
- Represented local residents in suit against municipal sewer authority under the Clean Water Act and obtained favorable settlement.
- Brought accountability actions under federal environmental statutes and the Administrative Procedures Act.
- Represented citizen environmental groups in regional transportation planning process and obtained several changes to the Regional Transportation Plan aimed at reducing automobile emissions.
- Analyzed Discharge Monitoring reports for violations.
- Utilized Freedom of Information Act to obtain information on corporate polluters.
- Submitted comments on proposed regulations on behalf of citizen environmental groups.

» Education**Vermont Law School, LL.M. Environmental Law, Summa Cum Laude (2016)**

South Royalton, Vermont

Widener University School of Law, J.D. (2003)

Wilmington, Delaware

Awards: Widener Two-Year Full Tuition Scholarship, American Indian Graduate Center Fellow

Honors: Dean's List Spring 2003, Certificate of Achievement: Legislative Drafting, Certificate of Achievement: Selected Topics in Constitutional Law (Awarded by Vice President Biden)

Activities: Intensive Trial Advocacy Program; Treasurer, Environmental Law Society (2000-01); Alternative Dispute Resolution Society

Naropa University, B.A. (1999)

Boulder, Colorado

Major: B.A. Psychology and B.A. Religious Studies

Minor: Traditional Eastern Arts

GPA: 3.51

Honors: President's Leadership Scholar 1997-98

» Boards, Commissions and Advisory Councils

- Arkansas-Oklahoma Arkansas River Compact Commission, Federal Alternate Commissioner (Appointed by President Obama 2015)
- University of Arkansas School of Law, Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative, Model Tribal Food Code Advisory Committee
- Newseum Institute, Religious Freedom Center, Advisory Council
- National Native American Bar Association, President-Elect (2017-2018) President (2018-2019); Immediate Past-President (2019-2020)
- American Bar Association, Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources – Native American Resources Committee, Vice Chair (membership) (2017-2018)
- Native American Bar Association of D.C., President (2016), Treasurer (2012-2015)
- Capitol City Cherokee Community, Leadership Council (2014-2016).

» Volunteer and Pro Bono

- Native American Bar Association of D.C., Past President
- Advisor to Board of Directors, International Association of Clinical Research Nurses
- Oral Argument Judge, Widener University School of Law
- Pro bono wills and trusts attorney for Philadelphia Volunteers for Indigent People
- Pro bono tax attorney for Philadelphia Legal Assistance
- Recognized for outstanding pro bono service by the IRS in 2004
- Advisory Board, Religious Freedom Center of the Newseum Institute

» Publications

- The Five Civilized Tribes' Treaty Rights to Water Quality and Mechanisms of Enforcement, 25 N.Y.U. Envtl. L.J. 269 (2017).
- Walking the Red Road in the Iron House, 28.2 Am. Jails 8 (May/June 2014).

» Admissions and Affiliations

Bar Admissions: Supreme Court of the United States, Pennsylvania, District of Columbia, Cherokee Nation

Memberships: American Bar Association, National Native American Bar Association, Native American Bar Association of D.C., National Congress of American Indians (Alternate Delegate and Individual)

Citizenship: United States, District of Columbia, Cherokee Nation