



SOVEREIGNTY SYMPOSIUM XXXVII

June 12-13, 2025

OKANA Resort

Oklahoma City

This agenda is subject to revision, and all panels and speakers are subject to change.

Each state has its own rules and regulations, including the definition of continuing legal education. Therefore, certain portions of the program may not receive credit in some states.

12 CLE credits, including 2.0 Ethics credit

Wednesday, June 11, 2025

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| 4 p.m.–5:30 p.m. | Vendor Check-in and Setup |
| 5:30 p.m.–6:30 p.m. | Early Registration during the National Native American Bar Association Reception Oklahoma River Boardroom |

Thursday, June 12, 2025

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| 7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. | Registration Open Vendor Exhibits Open |
| 7:30 a.m.–8:30 a.m. | Continental Breakfast |
| 8:30 a.m.–10:15 a.m. | Panel A: Healthcare and Healing (2 CLE Credits) <i>Restoring Balance: Indigenous Approaches to Health and Wellbeing</i> Moderator: Amy Pierce (Choctaw) – District Court Judge, Choctaw Nation Panelists: Chris Anoatubby (Chickasaw) – Lieutenant Governor, Chickasaw Nation Tasha Mousseau (Wichita) – Vice President, Wichita and Affiliated Tribes, and Chief Officer of Advancement and Tribal Relations, Friends of the Children Jennifer Ontiveros, RN, BSN, CCM – Clinical Nurse Manager, OKC Indian Clinic Gordon Yellowman (Cheyenne) – Artist |
| 8:30 a.m.–10:15 a.m. | Panel B: Government to Government (2 CLE Credits) <i>Tribal Nations and the State: A Dialogue on Law, Policy and Partnership</i> Moderator: Leslie Osborn – Oklahoma Labor Commissioner Panelists: Herschel Gorham (Arapaho) – General Counsel for the Office of Tribal Attorney and Lt. Governor, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Matt Morgan (Chickasaw) – Special Envoy, Chickasaw Nation Dawn Sullivan – Deputy Director, Oklahoma Department of Transportation |
| 8:30 a.m.–10:15 a.m. | Panel C: Economic Development (2 CLE Credits) <i>Sovereign Prosperity: Building Sustainable Tribal Economies</i> Moderator: Lisa Billy (Chickasaw) – Legislator, Chickasaw Tribal Panelists: John “Rocky” Barrett (Citizen Potawatomi) – Tribal Chairman, Citizen Potawatomi Nation Dan Boren – Secretary of Commerce, Chickasaw Nation Tana Fitzpatrick (Lakota/Crow/Ponca/Chickasaw) – Associate Vice President of Tribal Relations, University of Oklahoma Phillip Gover – Policy Fellow & Senior Project Manager for Center for Indian Development, Federal Reserve Bank David Hill (Muscogee [Creek]) – Principal Chief, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Amanda Swope (Muscogee [Creek]) – Director of Tribal Policy and Partnerships, City of Tulsa, Office of the Mayor |

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| 10:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m. | <p>Opening Ceremony <i>Host:</i> David Holt (Osage) – Dean, Oklahoma City University School of Law <i>Camp Call:</i> Gordon Yellowman (Cheyenne) – Peace Chief, Cheyenne and Arapaho Nation <i>Presentation of Flags:</i> Honor Guard – Kiowa Black Leggings <i>Memorial and Honor Songs:</i> Southern Nation <i>Invocation:</i> David Wilson (Choctaw) – Bishop, Great Plains Conference of the United Methodist Church <i>Welcome:</i> Kenneth Evans – President, Oklahoma City University <i>Recognitions:</i> Emily Eleftherakis (Delaware Tribe/Cherokee) – Writing and Poster Competition Winners David Holt (Osage) – Justice Yvonne Kauger, Julie Rorie and Kyle Shifflett <i>Closing Prayer:</i> Gordon Yellowman (Cheyenne) – Peace Chief, Cheyenne and Arapaho Nation</p> |
| 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m. | <p>Luncheon for All Attendees – Sponsored by Miai, Inc. Co-Sponsored by Ogletree Deakins, Fellers Snider & GableGotwals</p> |
| 1:15 p.m.–3 p.m. | <p>Panel A: Language Revitalization (2 CLE Credits) <i>The Power of Language: Strengthening Identity Through Revitalization Efforts</i> Moderator: Don Henderson – Education Program Manager, Apple Panelists: Teresa Billy (Choctaw) – Assistant Director, Choctaw Nation Language School Braxton RedEagle (Osage) – Director, Osage Nation Language Department Casey Ross (Cherokee) – General Counsel, Oklahoma City University Forrest Tahdooahnippah (Comanche) – Chairman, Comanche Nation</p> |
| 1:15 p.m.–3 p.m. | <p>Panel B: Intertribal and Tribal Relations (2 CLE Credits) <i>Sovereignty and Solidarity: Collaboration Among Indigenous Nations</i> Moderator: Julie Rorie – Retired Staff Attorney, Oklahoma Supreme Court Panelists: Bill Anoatubby (Chickasaw) – Governor, Chickasaw Nation Billy Friend (Wyandotte) – Chief, Wyandotte Nation David Hill (Muscogee [Creek]) – Principal Chief, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lewis Johnson (Seminole) – Chief, Seminole Nation of Oklahoma Brian McClain (Choctaw) – Executive Director of Government Relations, Choctaw Nation</p> |
| 1:15 p.m.–3 p.m. | <p>Panel C: International Indigenous Economic Development (2 CLE Credits) <i>Trade, Tradition and Transformation: The Future of Indigenous Global Business</i> Moderator: Valerie Devol – Principal, Devol & Associates Panelists: Jim Collard – Director of Planning and Economic Development, Citizen Potawatomi Nation Margo Gray (Osage) – Executive Director, United Indian Nations of Oklahoma Susan Harper – Canadian Consul General, Dallas Alana Kennedy – Founder and CEO, OCHRE Sun, Australia</p> |

Sunrise Ballroom

Sunset Ballroom 1

Sunset Ballrooms 2 & 3

Loblolly, Dogwood,
Cypress Rooms

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| 3 p.m.–3:30 p.m. | Break – Sponsored by OKC Thunder |
| 3:30 p.m.–5:15 p.m. | <p>Panel A: Digital Sovereignty (2 CLE Credits) <i>Data is Power: Indigenous Control Over Digital Infrastructure and Information</i></p> <p>Moderator: Tia Ebarb Matt (Choctaw-Apache) – Clinical Professor of Law and the Director of Experiential Learning, Oklahoma City University School of Law</p> <p>Panelists: Ben Barnes (Shawnee) – Chief, Shawnee Tribe Kym Cravatt (Seminole) – General Counsel, Chickasaw Nation Health Anthony Hendricks – Director and Head of Cybersecurity and Data Privacy Practice Group, Crowe Dunlevy Traci Morris (Chickasaw) – Executive Director, American Indian Policy Institute, Arizona State University Kelli Matthews Smalling (Muscogee [Creek]) – Executive Director/CEO, Engage Learning</p> |
| 3:30 p.m.–5:15 p.m. | <p>Panel B: Criminal Law (2 CLE Credits) <i>Tribal Justice: Navigating Criminal Law in Indian Country</i></p> <p>Moderator: Arvo Mikkanen (Kiowa/Comanche) – Assistant U.S. Attorney, Western District of Oklahoma</p> <p>Panelists: Kaleigh Blackwell – Tribal Prosecutor & Special Assistant U.S. Attorney, Western District of Oklahoma Gentner Drummond – Oklahoma Attorney General Erik Johnson – District Attorney, District 22 (Seminole, Pontotoc & Hughes Counties) Geri Wisner (Muscogee [Creek]) – Deputy Attorney General, Muscogee (Creek) Nation</p> |
| 3:30 p.m.–5:15 p.m. | <p>Panel C: Economic and Agriculture Development (2 CLE Credits) <i>Rooted in Tradition, Growing Toward the Future: Tribal Economic and Agricultural Innovation</i></p> <p>Moderator: Jim Collard – Director of Planning and Economic Development, Citizen Potawatomi Nation</p> <p>Panelists: Carly Griffith Hotvedt (Cherokee) – Executive Director of Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiatives, University of Arkansas Whitney Sawney (Cherokee) – Director of Communications and Policy, Native American Agriculture Fund Geoffrey Standing Bear (Osage) – Principal Chief, Osage Nation William Walton – Associate Professor in Urban Planning Law, Bartlett School of Planning, University College, London Reggie Wassana (Cheyenne Arapaho) – Governor, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes</p> |
| 5:30 p.m.–6:30 p.m. | <p>Networking Reception <i>In honor of Justice Yvonne Kauger</i> Conference Center Lobby</p> |

Friday, June 13, 2025

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| 7:15 a.m.–2:15 p.m. | Registration Open Vendor Exhibits Open |
| 7:15 a.m.–8:15 a.m. | Continental Breakfast |
| 8:15 a.m.–10 a.m. | Panel A: Media and the Arts (2 CLE Credits) <i>Amplifying Native Stories: The Intersection of Media, Arts, and Culture</i> Moderator: MaryAnn (Guoladdle-Davilla) Parker (Kiowa) – Assistant Curator, First Americans Museum (FAM) Panelists: Emily Campbell – Attorney-Director, Dunlap Coddling Cara Dehnert – Lawyer, Instructor and Program Director for Contemporary Music Business, University of Central Oklahoma Seth Fairchild (Choctaw) – Executive Director of Cultural Services, Choctaw Nation DG Smalling (Choctaw) – Choctaw Nation Master Artist |
| 8:15 a.m.–10 a.m. | Panel B: History (2 CLE Credits) <i>Where It All Began: The History and Legacy of Native Nations' Struggles and Sovereignty</i> Moderator: Greg Bigler (Euchee/Muscogee [Creek]) – District Judge and Tribal Judge Panelists: Kirke Kickingbird (Kiowa) – Attorney, Hobbs, Straus, Dean & Walker Wilson Pipestem (Otoe-Missouria) – President, Pipestem Law Firm Gary Pitchlynn – Managing Attorney, Pitchlynn Law Ryland Rivas (Comanche) – Chief Justice, Comanche Nation Gloria Valencia-Weber – Professor of Law Emerita, University of New Mexico School of Law |
| 8:15 a.m.–10 a.m. | Panel C: Water Law, Cannabis, Environmental Disaster Recovery (2 CLE Credits) <i>Resilient Futures: Legal Insights on Water, Cannabis, and Post-Disaster Recovery</i> Moderator: Emily Eleftherakis (Delaware Tribe/Cherokee) – Clinical Professor of Law, American Indian Wills Clinic, Oklahoma City University School of Law Panelists: Ashley Anderson (Cherokee) – Tribal Water Law Attorney, Native American Rights Fund (NARF) Brian Candelaria – Staff Attorney, Oklahoma Indian Legal Services Erick Giles (Muscogee [Creek]) – Attorney, Drummond Woodsum Kim Leming (Miami Tribe of Oklahoma) – Indigenous Endeavors, LLC Christine Pappas – Professor, East Central University |
| 10 a.m.–10:15 a.m. | Break – Sponsored by Devol and Associates |
| 10:15 a.m.–11 a.m. | Plenary Session – Keynote Address The Honorable Deb Haaland (Laguna Pueblo) – Former United States Secretary of the Interior Sunrise Ballroom |

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| 11 a.m.–11:15 a.m. | Break – Sponsored by McAfee & Taft | |
| 11:15 a.m.–1 p.m. | Panel A: Juvenile Issues (2 CLE Credits) <i>Building Strong Foundations: Legal Approaches to Juvenile Issues in Native Nations</i> Moderator: Elizabeth Brown (Cherokee) – Associate District Judge, Adair County, Oklahoma Panelists: Jayci Howerton (Cherokee) – Programs Supervisor, Oklahoma Department of Human Services Tribal Unit Kace Rodwell (Cherokee) – Staff Attorney, Oklahoma Indian Legal Services Tim Scott – Court Improvement Program Juvenile Court Project Specialist, Supreme Court of Oklahoma JoEtta Toppah – Chief Juvenile Prosecutor, Muscogee (Creek) Nation | Sunset Ballroom 1 |
| 11:15 a.m.–1 p.m. | Panel B: Gaming (2 CLE Credits) <i>Rolling the Dice: The Evolving Landscape of Tribal Gaming and Sovereignty</i> Moderator: Matt Morgan – Special Envoy, Chickasaw Nation Panelists: Sharon Avery – Acting Chairwoman, National Indian Gaming Commission Kyle Dean – Director, Center for Native American & Urban Studies, Oklahoma City University Mike McBride – Indian Law and Gaming Practice Group Chair, Crowe Dunlevy William Norman (Muscogee [Creek]) – Partner, Hobbs, Straus, Dean & Walker, LLP | Sunset Ballrooms 2 & 3 |
| 11:15 a.m.–1 p.m. | Panel C: Cultural Preservation, Indian Arts and Crafts Act (2 CLE Credits) <i>From Craft to Commerce: Navigating the Intersection of Cultural Preservation and Legal Protections</i> Moderator: Shawna Hudson (Eastern Shawnee) – President, Native American Law Student Association, Oklahoma City University School of Law Panelists: Susan Anthony – Tribal Affairs Liaison and Senior Trademark Attorney, United States Patent and Trademark Office Kelli Mosteller (Citizen Potawatomi) – Executive Director and CEO, First Americans Museum Chloe Moyer (Choctaw) – Fellow, Tribal Sovereignty Institute, Oklahoma City University School of Law Gena Timberman (Choctaw) – Attorney and Founder, Luksi Group | Loblolly, Dogwood, Cypress Rooms |
| 1 p.m.–2 p.m. | Lunch on Your Own | |
| 2:15 p.m.–4 p.m. | Panel A: Ethics (2 CLE Credits) <i>Attorney Ethics: Competence and Communicating with Clients</i> Moderator: Stephanie Hudson (Kiowa) – Executive Director of Oklahoma Indian Legal Services (OILS) | Sunset Ballroom 1 |

2:15 p.m.–4 p.m.

Panel B: Ethics (2 CLE Credits)

Jurisdictions in Balance: Ethical Practice Across Tribal, Federal and State Courtrooms

Moderator:

Emily Eleftherakis (Delaware Tribe/Cherokee) – Clinical Professor, American Indian Wills Clinic, Oklahoma City University School of Law

Panelists:

Vicki Behenna – District Attorney, Oklahoma County

Stacy Leeds (Cherokee) – Dean and Regents Professor of Law, Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, Arizona State University

Christine Little – Magistrate Judge, Northern District of Oklahoma

Debbie Maddox – Executive Director, Oklahoma Indigent Defense System

Sunset Ballrooms
2 & 3

2:15 p.m.–4 p.m.

Panel C: Ethics (2 CLE Credits)

Tribal Judicial Ethics

Moderator:

Casey Ross (Cherokee) – General Counsel, Oklahoma City University

Panelists:

Gregory H. Bigler (Euchee/Muscogee [Creek]) – District Judge and Tribal Judge

Lisa Otipoby (Comanche) – Associate District Judge, Comanche Nation Tribal Court

Ryland Rivas Jr. (Comanche) – Chief Justice, Comanche Nation

Loblolly, Dogwood,
Cypress Rooms

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