



THE SOVEREIGNTY SYMPOSIUM 2025 AGENDA DRAFT

5-21-25 – LAST UPDATE

June 12-13, 2025

OKANA

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

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

4:00 pm to 6:30 pm Vendor Check in and Setup

5:30 pm to 6:30 pm – Early Registration during Native American Bar Association Reception
Oklahoma River Boardroom

Thursday, June 12, 2025

7:30 am to 4:30 pm – Registration Open
Oklahoma River Boardroom

7:30 am to 4:30 pm – Vendor Exhibits Open
Conference Center Lobby

7:30 am to 8:30 am – Continental Breakfast

HEALTHCARE AND HEALING

Session	Time	Room	Moderators	Panelists
Restoring Balance: Indigenous Approaches to Health and Well-Being	8:30 am to 10:15 am	Sunset Ballroom 1	Amy Pierce, District Court Judge, Choctaw Nation	Chris Anoatubby, Lieutenant Governor, Chickasaw Nation Tasha Mousseau, 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 (<i>Cheyenne Arapaho</i>), Artist
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GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT

Session	Time	Room	Moderators	Panelists
Tribal Nations and the State: A Dialogue on Law, Policy and Partnership	8:30 am to 10:15 am	Sunset Ballroom 2 & 3	Leslie Osborn , Oklahoma Labor Commissioner	Hershel Gorham , General Counsel for the Office of Tribal Attorney and Lt. Governor, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Matt Morgan , Special Envoy, Chickasaw Nation Dawn Sullivan , Deputy Director, Oklahoma Department of Transportation

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Session	Time	Room	Moderators	Panelists
Sovereign Prosperity: Building Sustainable Tribal Economies	8:30 am to 10:15 am	Loblolly, Dogwood, Cypress Rooms	Lisa Billy , Legislator, Chickasaw Nation	<p>John “Rocky” Barrett, Chairman, Citizen Potawatomi Nation</p> <p>Dan Boren, Secretary of Commerce, Chickasaw Nation</p> <p>Tana Fitzpatrick <i>(Lakota/Crow/Ponca/ Chickasaw)</i>, Associate Vice President of Tribal Relations, University of Oklahoma</p> <p>Phillip Gover, Policy Fellow & Senior Project Manager for Center for Indian Development, Federal Reserve Bank</p> <p>David Hill, Principal Chief, Muscogee (Creek) Nation</p> <p>Amanda Swope <i>(Muscogee (Creek))</i>, Director of Tribal Policy and Partnerships, City of Tulsa, Office of the Mayor</p>

10:30 am – 11:30 am – Opening Ceremony

Host: **David Holt** (*Osage*), Dean, Oklahoma City University School of Law

Camp Call: **Gordon Yellowman** (*Cheyenne*), Peace Chief, Cheyenne and Arapaho Nation

Presentation of Flags – Honor Guard: **Kiowa Black Leggings**

Memorial and Honor Songs: **Southern Nation**

Invocation: **David Wilson** (*Choctaw*), Bishop, Great Plains Conference of the United Methodist Church

Welcome: **Kenneth Evans**, President, Oklahoma City University

Recognitions: **Emily Eleftherakis** (*Delaware Tribe/Cherokee*) and **David Holt** (*Osage*)

Closing Prayer: **Gordon Yellowman** (*Cheyenne*), Peace Chief, Cheyenne and Arapaho Nation

11:30 am to 1:00 pm – Luncheon for All Attendees

LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION

Session	Time	Room	Moderators	Panelists
The Power of Language: Strengthening Identity Through Revitalization Efforts	1:15 pm to 3:00 pm	Sunset Ballroom 1	Don Henderson , Education Program Manager, Apple	Teresa Billy , Assistant Director of the Choctaw Nation Language School Braxton RedEagle , Director, Osage Nation Language Department Casey Ross (<i>Cherokee</i>), General Counsel, Oklahoma City University Forest Tahdooahnippah , Chairman, Comanche Nation

INTERTRIBAL AND TRIBAL RELATIONS

Session	Time	Room	Moderators	Panelists
Sovereignty and Solidarity: Collaboration Among Indigenous Nations	1:15 pm to 3:00 pm	Sunset Ballrooms 2 & 3	Julie Rorie , Retired Staff Attorney, Oklahoma Supreme Court	Bill Anoatubby , Governor, Chickasaw Nation Billy Friend , Chief, Wyandotte Nation David Hill , Principal Chief, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lewis Johnson , Chief, Seminole Nation of Oklahoma Brian McClain , Executive Director of Government Relations, Choctaw Nation

INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Session	Time	Room	Moderators	Panelists
Trade, Tradition and Transformation: The Future of Indigenous Global Business	1:15 pm to 3:00 pm	Loblolly, Dogwood, Cypress Rooms	Valerie Devol , Principal, Devol & Associates	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
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3:00 pm to 3:30 pm – Break

DIGITAL SOVEREIGNTY

Session	Time	Room	Moderators	Panelists
Data is Power: Indigenous Control Over Digital Infrastructure and Information	3:30 pm to 5:15 pm	Sunset Ballroom 1	Tia Ebarb Matt (<i>Choctaw-Apache</i>), Clinical Professor of Law and the Director of Experiential Learning, Oklahoma City University School of Law	Ben Barnes (<i>Shawnee</i>), Chief, Shawnee Tribe Kym Cravatt (<i>Seminole</i>), General Counsel, Chickasaw Nation Health Anthony Hendricks , Director and Head of Cybersecurity and Data Privacy Practice Group, Crowe & Dunlevy Traci Morris (<i>Chickasaw</i>), Executive Director, American Indian Policy Institute, Arizona State University Kelli Matthews Smalling (<i>Muscogee (Creek)</i>), Executive Director and CEO, Engage Learning

CRIMINAL LAW

Session	Time	Room	Moderators	Panelists
Tribal Justice: Navigating Criminal Law in Indian Country	3:30 pm to 5:15 pm	Sunset Ballroom 2 & 3	Arvo Mikkanen (Kiowa/Commanche), Assistant U.S. Attorney and Senior Counsel for Tribal Relations, U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Oklahoma	Kaleigh Blackwell (Chickasaw), Tribal Prosecutor and Tribal Special Assistant U.S. Attorney, Western District of Oklahoma Gentner Drummond , Oklahoma Attorney General Geri Wisner , Deputy Attorney General, Muscogee (Creek) Nation

ECONOMIC AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Session	Time	Room	Moderators	Panelists
Rooted in Tradition, Growing Toward the Future: Tribal Economic and Agricultural Innovation	3:30 pm to 5:15 pm	Loblolly, Dogwood, Cypress Rooms	Jim Collard , Director of Planning and Economic Development, Citizen Potawatomi Nation	Carly Griffith Hotvedt (Cherokee), Executive Director of Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiatives, University of Arkansas Geoffrey Standing Bear , Principal Chief, Osage Nation William Walton , Associate Professor in Urban Planning Law, Bartlett School of

				Planning, University College, London Libby Washburn <i>(Chickasaw)</i> , Associate CEO of Native American Agriculture Fund Reggie Wassana , Governor, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes
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5:30 pm to 6:30 pm – Reception Celebrating the Career of Yvonne Kauger

Friday, June 13, 2025

7:15 am to 2:15 pm – Registration Open

7:15 am to 2:15 pm – Vendor Exhibits Open

7:15 am to 8:15 am – Continental Breakfast

HISTORY

Session	Time	Room	Moderators	Panelists
Where It All Began: The History and Legacy of Native Nations' Struggles and Sovereignty	8:15 am to 10:00 am	Sunset Ballroom 2 & 3	Greg Bigler <i>(Euchee/Muscogee (Creek))</i> , District Judge and Tribal Judge	Kirke Kickingbird <i>(Kiowa)</i> , Attorney, Hobbs, Straus, Dean & Walker Wilson Pipestem <i>(Otoe-Missouria)</i> , President, Pipestem Law Firm Gary Pitchlynn , Managing Attorney, Pitchlynn Law

				Ryland Rivas <i>(Comanche)</i> , Chief Justice, Comanche Nation Gloria Valencia-Weber , Professor of Law Emerita, University of New Mexico School of Law
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WATER LAW, CANNABIS, ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER RECOVERY

Session	Time	Room	Moderators	Panelists
Resilient Futures: Legal Insights on Water, Cannabis and Post-Disaster Recovery	8:15 am to 10:00 am	Loblolly, Dogwood, Cypress Rooms	Emily Eleftherakis <i>(Delaware Tribe/Cherokee)</i> , Clinical Professor, Oklahoma City University School of Law, American Indian Wills Clinic	Ashley Anderson Tribal Water Law Attorney, Native American Rights Fund Brian Candelaria , Staff Attorney, Oklahoma Indian Legal Services Erick Giles , Attorney, Drummond Woodsum Kim Leming <i>(Miami Tribe of Oklahoma)</i> , Indigenous Endeavors, LLC Christine Pappas , Professor, East Central University

MEDIA AND THE ARTS

Session	Time	Room	Moderators	Panelists
Amplifying Native Stories: The Intersection of Media, Arts and Culture	8:15 am to 10:00 am	Sunset Ballroom 1	MaryAnn (Guoladdle- Davilla) Parker (Kiowa), Assistant Curator, First Americans Museum	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

10:00 am to 10:15 am – Break

10:15 am to 11:00 am – Plenary Session

Keynote Address from The Honorable Deb Haaland (*Laguna Pueblo*), Former U.S. Secretary of the Interior

11:00 am to 11:15 am - Break

JUVENILE ISSUES

Session	Time	Room	Moderators	Panelists
Building Strong Foundations: Legal	11:15 am to 1:00 pm	Sunset Ballroom 1	Elizabeth Brown , Associate District	Jayci Howerton , Programs Supervisor,

Approaches to Juvenile Issues in Native Nations			Judge, Adair County, Oklahoma	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
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CULTURAL PRESERVATION, INDIAN ARTS AND CRAFTS ACT

Session	Time	Room	Moderators	Panelists
From Craft to Commerce: Navigating the Intersection of Cultural Preservation and Legal Protections	11:15 am to 1:00 pm	Loblolly, Dogwood, Cypress Rooms		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 , Attorney, Choctaw Nation Gena Timberman , (Choctaw), Attorney and Founder, Luksi Group

GAMING

Session	Time	Room	Moderators	Panelists
Rolling the Dice: The Evolving Landscape of Tribal Gaming and Sovereignty	11:15 am to 1:00 pm	Sunset Ballrooms 2 & 3	Matt Morgan , Special Envoy, Chickasaw Nation	Sharon Avery , Acting Chairwoman, National Indian Gaming Commission Kyle Dean , Director, Center for Native American & Urban Studies and Oklahoma City University Mike McBride , Indian Law and Gaming Practice Group Chair, Crowe & Dunlevy William Norman , Partner, Hobbs, Straus, Dean & Walker, LLP

1:00 pm to 2:15 pm – Lunch on Your Own

ETHICS PANEL A

Session	Time	Room	Moderators	Panelists
Jurisdictions in Balance: Ethical Practice Across Tribal, Federal and State Courtrooms	2:15 pm to 4:00 pm	Sunset Ballroom 2 & 3	Emily Eleftherakis <i>(Delaware Tribe/Cherokee)</i> ,	Stacy Leeds <i>(Cherokee)</i> , Dean and Regents Professor of Law, Sandra Day O'Connor College

			Clinical Professor, Oklahoma City University School of Law, American Indian Wills Clinic	of Law, Arizona State University Debbie Maddox , General Counsel, Oklahoma Ethics Commission
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ETHICS PANEL B

Session	Time	Room	Moderators	Panelists
Attorney Ethics: Competence and Communicating with Clients	2:15 pm to 4:00 pm	Sunset Ballroom 1	Stephanie Hudson (Kiowa), Executive Director, Oklahoma Indian Legal Services	

ETHICS PANEL C

Session	Time	Room	Moderators	Panelists
Tribal Judicial Ethics	2:15 pm to 4:00 pm	Loblolly, Dogwood, Cypress Rooms	Casey Ross (Cherokee), General Counsel, Oklahoma City University	Greg Bigler (Euclidean/Muscogee (Creek)), District Judge and Tribal Judge Lisa Otipoby , Associate District Judge, Comanche Nation Tribal Court Ryland Rivas (Comanche), Chief

				Justice, Comanche Nation
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