

# DAVID L. GOVER

Native American Rights Fund  
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## **WORK EXPERIENCE:**

- 5/05 – Present      **Staff Attorney**, Native American Rights Fund  
Boulder, Colorado
- Represent American Indian tribal governments and entities with an emphasis in Federal Indian law, water rights, repatriation, administrative process, Indian gaming and Indian child welfare issues.
- Currently represent the Klamath Tribes in the Klamath Basin Adjudication, a general stream adjudication of the Klamath River in southern Oregon; the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community in a water rights project; and the Knife Chief family in their efforts to repatriate funerary objects under NAGPRA.
- Served as a contributing author to NARF's *A Practical Guide to the Indian Child Welfare Act* and as member of NARF's tribal trust fund litigation team (*Nez Perce v. Salazar*). Former supervisor and manager of NARF's law clerk program.
- 6/04 – 5/05      **Assistant Attorney General**, Muscogee Nation, Department of Justice  
Okmulgee, Oklahoma
- Represented the Nation on natural resource matters; including water rights, oil and gas transactions, and environmental policy development. Authored comments to the Environmental Protection Agency, regarding the application of the Clean Water Act's "Treatment as States" provision. Reviewed and drafted business transaction agreements.
- 10/01 – 6/04      **Staff Attorney**, Navajo Nation, Office of Legislative Counsel  
Window Rock, Arizona
- Represented the Navajo Nation Council and the Council's Resources Committee in all areas of the law; with an emphasis in Navajo law, Federal Indian law, natural resources law, administrative law, land use law, water law, and environmental law. Reviewed and drafted Navajo legislative bills and resolutions. Authored administrative hearing decisions for the Navajo Nation's Resources Committee and Labor Commission.
- 3/00 – 10/01      **Law Clerk**, Hobbs, Straus, Dean & Walker  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
- Duties included researching and drafting memos in all major areas of the law, with an emphasis in Federal Indian Law.

## **EDUCATION:**

- 9/98 – 5/01            **University of Oklahoma**, College of Law  
Norman, Oklahoma  
**Juris Doctorate**
- 9/93 – 5/97            **University of Oklahoma**  
Norman, Oklahoma  
**Bachelor of Arts** – Major: Communications & Native American Studies
- 6/95 – 7/95            **Oklahoma City University**  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
**M.A.N.A.G.E. Institute** – Indian Econ. Dev. & Self-Determination Prog.
- 9/91 – 5/93            **University of Colorado**  
Boulder, Colorado  
Transferred to the Univ. of Oklahoma

## **SELECTED LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS:**

- 8/09            Moderator, *Settlements and Groundwater*  
11<sup>th</sup> Symposium On The Settlement Of Indian Reserved Water Rights Claims  
NARF and Western States Water Council
- 6/09            Presenter, *Assessing Tribal Water Right and Resources*  
Oklahoma Tribal Water Workshop
- 6/09            Presenter, *Constructing Tribal Water Right Claims*  
Sovereignty Symposium
- 4/09            Presenter, *Tribal Sovereignty, Water Quality and the Clean Water Act*  
CLE International – Conference on Oklahoma Water Law
- 2/09            Panelist, *Just Water? Indigenous Water Rights Panel*  
Univ. of California, Berkeley
- 7/08            Coordinator & Presenter, *Funding Tribal Water Rights Protection Efforts*  
NARF/ Sac & Fox Nation - Oklahoma Tribal Water Summit
- 5/08            Presenter, *Water Law Review Symposium Cutting Edge Alternatives*  
University of Denver, Sturm College of Law
- 4/06            Lecturer, *The Indian Child Welfare Act in a nutshell.*  
Univ. of Colorado, Native American Studies.
- 7/05            Presenter, *A Practical Guide to the Indian Child Welfare Act.*  
National Gathering for Tribal-Federal-State Court Relations: Walking on  
Common Ground, Pathways to Equal Justice.

- 6/05           Presenter, *A Practical Guide to the Indian Child Welfare Act*.  
National Congress of American Indians Mid-Year Meeting.
- 4/05           Presenter, *Tribal Water Rights: Litigation versus Negotiation*.  
Univ. of Oklahoma, Native American Studies, Indian Law Symposium.
- 2/05           Presenter, *The Clean Water Act's "Treatment as States" Policy & Issues*.  
Muscogee (Creek) National Council.
- 3/04           Trainer, *The Navajo Nation's Legislative Process Amendments of 2003*.  
Navajo Nation Bar Review Course.
- 9/03           Trainer, *The Navajo Nation's Legislative Process Amendments of 2003*.  
Navajo Nation Council & Committee Meetings.
- 1/04           Trainer, *The Navajo Nation Committee Rules of Order*.  
20<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council Members.

**PUBLICATIONS:**

Contributing Author, *A Practical Guide to the Indian Child Welfare Act*.  
Publication date is forthcoming.

Editor, *2005 Navajo Nation Code*.

Compilation Editor, *Laws Affecting Indians in the State of Oklahoma*. 1996.  
Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission.

**PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS:**

- 1/09 – Present           Oklahoma Indian Bar Association
- 9/06 – Present           Univ. of Oklahoma, Native American Studies Board of Visitors  
Board Member
- 1/06 – Present           Colorado Indian Bar Association
- 10/05 – Present           National Congress of American Indians
- 10/04 – Present           Muscogee (Creek) Nation Bar Association
- 5/02 – Present           Navajo Nation Bar Association
- 4/02 – Present           New Mexico Bar Association
- 10/01 – Present           Oklahoma Bar Association

**COURT ADMISSIONS:**

Oklahoma Supreme Court  
Oregon Office of Administrative Hearings (*pro hac vice*)  
United States District Court for the District of Columbia (*pro hac vice*)  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Court  
New Mexico Supreme Court (inactive)  
Navajo Nation Tribal Court (inactive)

**AWARDS:**

Navajo Abandoned Mine & Reclamation Program – Service Award  
OU Native American Law Student Association –Service Award  
Univ. of Oklahoma, Academic Achievement Award – Water Law.  
Judge Mabely Fellowship  
American Indian Graduate Center Fellowship  
Inter-Tribal Indian Club of Tulsa Scholarship