Howard & Howard
law for business

Gavin S. Clarkson

Las Vegas, NV

702.667.4804
702.567.1568
gsc@h2law.com



"I leverage my extensive experience in tribal finance, corporate governance, and economic development to provide comprehensive legal solutions to business owners."

Dr. Gavin Clarkson, Esq. is an accomplished, well-rounded attorney whose practice is focused primarily on tribal finance, mergers and acquisitions, corporate governance, and more. He is the former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Policy and Economic Development – Indian Affairs in the United States Department of the Interior, where he managed the Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development, the Office of Self-Governance, and supervised a multi-billion-dollar oil, gas, and minerals portfolio for all of Indian Country.

Dr. Clarkson has also held the Series 7, 24, and 66 Securities licenses from the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA). He has helped tribes raise nearly $1 billion for tribal governmental and entrepreneurial enterprises using a variety of financial mechanisms including taxable and tax-exempt bonds, bank credit facilities, and New Markets Tax Credits.

An enrolled member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Dr. Clarkson earned his undergraduate and MBA degrees from Rice University and his Doctorate in Technology and Operations Management from the Harvard Business School. His doctoral thesis was a series of essays on intellectual property strategy. Dr. Clarkson is also the only doctoral graduate in the history of the Harvard Business School who has placed in a livestock show.

Simultaneously with his doctoral studies, Dr. Clarkson graduated *cum laude* from Harvard Law School where he was the managing editor of the Harvard Journal of Law and Technology and President of the Native American Law Students Association.

Business & Corporate

- Business Litigation

In 2005, Dr. Clarkson received the first-ever grant from the National Science Foundation to study the dynamics of tribal finance. His research and Congressional testimony on tribal access to the capital markets helped lead to the inclusion of $2B of Tribal Economic Development Bonds in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Dr. Clarkson was on the Computer Science faculty at Rice University from 1991 until 1998 and a KPMG Fellow at the Harvard Business School from 1998 until 2003. While at Harvard, he was also the John M. Olin Research Fellow in Law, Economics, and Business, the Reginald F. Lewis Fellow for Law Teaching, and held a university-wide fellowship, the 1665 Harvard University Native American Program Fellowship. From 2003 until 2008, Dr. Clarkson was an assistant professor in the School of Information at the University of Michigan, with simultaneous appointments at the Law School and in Native American Studies, where he grew the Indian Law program from 5 students in 2003 to more than 60 by 2008. Clarkson was also an associate professor at the University of Houston Law Center from 2008 to 2012, a lecturer in the business school at Rice University from 2012 to 2018, and an associate professor in the Finance Department at New Mexico State from 2012 to until 2017, when he was appointed DASPED in the Department of the Interior.

Education

- Harvard Business School, 2004
  - Doctorate in Business Administration, Technology and Operations Management
  - John M. Olin Research Fellowship in Law, Economics, and Business
  - Reginald F. Lewis Fellow for Law Teaching
  - 1665 Harvard University Native American Program Fellow
  - KPMG Fellow
- Harvard Law School, 2002
  - J.D., *cum laude*
  - Harvard Journal of Law and Technology, Managing Editor
  - Harvard Negotiation Law Review, Editor
  - Native American Law Students, President
- Rice Business - Jones Graduate School of Business, 1992
  - M.B.A.
- Rice University, 1991
  - B.S., Managerial Studies

Memberships

- American Indian Science and Engineering Society
  - Sequoyah Lifetime Member
  - Chairman of AISES Foundation, 2005-2009
- Academy of Legal Studies in Business

Admissions

- Texas
- U.S. Federal Court, Southern District of Texas

Professional Achievements

- *Legal 500* U.S. Elite: Nevada, 2026

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