



Bryan C. Shade | Partner | Team Co-Leader - Indian Law

Washington, D.C.
202.888.7610 x1603 | bshade@lippes.com



As a member of the Lippes Mathias **Indian Law** Practice Team, Bryan concentrates his practice on advising tribal clients on issues ranging from gaming and economic development to self-governance and self-determination, and claims settlement and litigation.

Bryan Shade is an experienced federal Indian law attorney who has represented tribes and Indian Country in a variety of roles on both sides of the federal-tribal table. Bryan is currently with the DC office of Lippes Mathias LLP, and formerly served as an attorney/advisor for Indian Affairs at the Department of the Interior where he advised the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, the Deputy Assistant Secretaries for Indian Affairs for Management, Policy, and Economic Development, Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Office of Tribal Self-Governance on various issues relating to the federal trust responsibility to Tribal Nations. In 2021, Bryan was appointed by Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland to represent the Department on the PROGRESS Act Negotiated Rulemaking Committee. Prior to serving in the Department of the Interior, Bryan previously served as self-governance general counsel for one of the largest federally recognized tribes in the U.S. as well as executive director of tribal operations and federal programs director for his tribe. He has a demonstrated history of serving Indian Country and is a frontline expert on the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA) and other critical areas of federal Indian law.

Bryan advised the Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs during the COVID-19 Pandemic regarding impacts of the TGWEA on funds distributed by Tribes to their members under the CARES and ARP Acts. He has also advised Tribal governments on TGWEA's benefits related to distribution of recovery payments made under those acts and from general revenue resources.

The Oklahoma Bar Association's Indian Law Section presented Bryan

CAPABILITIES

Litigation
Lobbying & Public Policy
Indian Law

with the inaugural G. William Rice Award in recognition of his commitment to and excellence in the field of federal Indian law. Bryan is an enrolled member of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma and resides in Alexandria, VA, with his wife and two daughters who are citizens of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and who are of Chickasaw and Mississippi Band of Choctaw descent. Bryan currently serves on the board of Unikusda, an organization dedicated to mentoring Keetoowah youth, and also hosts his own podcast, "Rez Judicata: The Federal Indian Law Podcast."

EDUCATION

- University of Arkansas, School of Law, J.D., 2016
- Northeastern State University, M.B.A., 2010
- Northeastern State University, B.A., 2007

HONORS & AWARDS

- Native American 40 Under 40, *The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development*, 2023
- G. William Rice Award for Commitment to and Excellence in the field of Federal Indian Law, Oklahoma Bar Association Indian Law Section, 2016

PAST ACTIVITIES

- American Indian Resource Center, Inc., Board of Directors, Former Treasurer
- Indian Education Parent Committee, Tahlequah Public Schools, Former Member
- Capital Improvements Tax Oversight Board, Abatement Board, City of Tahlequah, OK., Former Member

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Unikusda, Board Member

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Indigenous Law & Policy for Tribal Officials Seminar, Faculty, Wild Horse Pass Hotel & Casino, February 18-20 2026
- "Energy and Utility Projects on Tribal Lands: Regulations, Financing, and Transaction Considerations," Co-presenter, BARBRI, October 1, 2025
- "Rez Judicata: The Federal Indian Law Podcast," Host
- "Tracing Individual Native Allotments – Locating Tribal Allotments, Understanding the Unique Character of Land Title and Impacts of State Real Property Law," 2024 Cleverdon-Epperson Roundtable CLE Seminar, hosted by the Oklahoma Bar Association's Real Property

Section, Presenter, May 16-17, 2024

- "Recovery Fund Compliance Update: Improve Delivery of Tribal Programs through Effective Grants Compliance," Moderator, 2024 Tribal Self Governance Conference, April 17, 2024
- "Where's the Money? Tracking Funds from Appropriations to Delivery with the Tribal Government," Moderator, 2024 Tribal Self Governance Conference, April 16, 2024
- Indian Law & Policy for Tribal Officials, Seminar, January 2024
- "Tracing Individual Native Allotments: How to Locate and Protect Dawes Allotments from Bad Actors and Bad Laws," February 11, 2023
- "Increasing Tribal ISDEAA Funding under Section 105(l)," Host, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, December 13, 2022
- "Tribal Sovereignty in Use of Federal Funds," Moderator, Federal Bar Association's DC Indian Law Conference, November 7, 2022

ADMITTED TO PRACTICE

- District of Columbia
- Oklahoma
- United Keetoowah Band Tribal Courts
- U.S. Supreme Court