

Charles W. Galbraith

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Areas of Focus

Native American Law

Government Controversies
and Public Policy Litigation

Energy

Communications, Internet,
and Technology

Transitions in Energy and
Climate Solutions



Overview

Charles W. Galbraith is a citizen of the Navajo Nation with almost 20 years of experience helping tribes understand and utilize their unique legal standing and political relationships in the United States. As Co-Chair of the firm’s Native American Law Practice and a partner in the Government Controversies and Public Policy Litigation Practice, Charlie represents tribal clients in complex litigation matters, sensitive internal investigations, and major financial transactions—all with a careful eye on the unique challenges that tribal leaders must consider when trying to obtain the best possible long-term outcomes.

Charlie previously served in the White House for President Barack Obama as Associate Director of Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Engagement. In this role, he managed the Administration’s relationship with all tribal governments and Native American people. Charlie advised the President, cabinet members and Executive Branch agencies on political, legislative, legal, administrative and media issues in what has often been cited as one of the most successful periods for the advancement of Native American affairs. During his White House tenure, he also served as Deputy Associate Counsel for presidential personnel, where he conducted background investigations and vetted individuals under consideration for presidential appointments.

As an Assistant US Attorney for the District of Arizona, Charlie successfully investigated and prosecuted a wide array of federal offenses. As a Legislative Assistant to then-United States Senator Tim Johnson (D-SD), he advised the senator on Indian Affairs, Judiciary and Appropriations matters. These federal government experiences inform Charlie's practice today and make him a sought-after lawyer for tribal governments and businesses and individuals navigating complex and interconnected legal, political, and policy challenges.



Drawing on my decade of experience as a White House staffer, federal prosecutor, and Senate staff member, I represent tribal governments, businesses, and individuals with challenges that require navigating interconnected legal, political, and policy challenges.”

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- Energy
- Communications, Internet, and Technology
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Credentials

Admissions

- District of Columbia, 2015
- Arizona, 2007
- Navajo Nation Bar, 2016

Education

- Arizona State University, JD, 2006
- University of Chicago, BA, 2002

Court Admissions

- US Supreme Court
- US Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit
- US Court of Appeals, Federal Circuit
- US District Court, District of Arizona
- US District Court, District of Columbia
- US Court of Federal Claims
- Courts of the Navajo Nation

Service / Recognition

Awards

- *Chambers USA*, Native American Law (Nationwide), 2017-2025
- Capital Pro Bono Honor Roll, 2022; High Honor Roll, 2023-2024
- *The Best Lawyers in America*, Native American Law, 2020-2022, 2024, 2026
- *Legal 500*, Native American Law, 2021
- Lawyers of Color, Nation's Best List, 2019
- *Super Lawyers*, Native American Law, DC Rising Star (Washington, DC), 2017-2019
- *Law360*, Rising Star, Native American Law, 2017
- ASU College of Law Emerging Leader Award, 2016
- Native American Bar Association, Excellence in Government Service, 2012
- National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development, 40 Under 40 Award
- *The Washington Business Journal*, 40 Under 40 Award
- *Legal Biznow*, 40 Under 40

Community

- Outdoor Recreation Roundtable, Board Member, 2024-present
- Men's Senior Amateur Baseball League, Outfielder and Third Baseman, 2003-present
- Marathon Runner, Twenty Full Marathons Completed, 2010-present
- Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Washington, DC, Big Brother, 2007-2017
- Presidential Appointee to the Board of Directors of the Institute of American Indians Arts, 2017-present
- National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development, Board of Directors, 2018-present
- Grand Canyon Conservancy, Board Member, 2021-present
- Nike N7, Member of the Board of Directors/Champions, 2015-present