

Chloe Thompson Villagomez

Principal

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Chloe focuses her practice on advising Native American tribes and tribal entities. She is a dedicated advocate for tribal sovereignty, tribal self-determination and tribal economic development.

Chloe represents Native American tribes and tribal entities in a broad range of governmental and business matters, including commercial transactions, business operations, governmental operations, intergovernmental relations and agreements, civil litigation, employment matters, construction issues, the development of laws, regulations and policy, and more. Chloe has particular interest in tribal economic development, tribal sovereign immunity, civil jurisdiction in Indian country, employment law, tax law, gaming, liquor and cannabis regulation, recognition of tribal court judgments, and issues involving the applicability of federal and state laws in Indian country.

Prior to joining Foster Garvey, Chloe served as the Tribal Attorney for the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe, Associate General Counsel for Port Madison Enterprises (an agency of the Suquamish Tribe) and in private practice with a boutique Indian law firm in the Minneapolis area. Her clients have included a number of tribal gaming operations, hotels, convenience stores and liquor stores, as well as a tribally owned construction company, golf course and event center.

Services

Litigation
Commercial & IP
Transactions
Labor, Employment &
Immigration
Tribal Governments &
Enterprises

Admissions

Washington, 2011
Minnesota, 2004
U.S. District Court, Western
District of Michigan, 2021
U.S. District Court, District of
Minnesota, 2005
U.S. District Court, Western
District of Washington, 2021
U.S. Court of Appeals for
the 9th Circuit, 2012
U.S. Court of Appeals for
the 6th Circuit, 2022
U.S. Court of Appeals for
the 11th Circuit, 2021
Puyallup Tribal Court, 2020
Snoqualmie Tribal Court,
2018
Suquamish Tribal Court,
2010

Chloe has also served as an adjunct professor at Seattle University School of Law, where she has taught Federal Indian Law, Indian Gaming Law, and Tribal Law.

Education

J.D., University of Minnesota Law School (*cum laude*), 2004

- *Law & Inequality: A Journal of Theory & Practice*, Managing Editor
- Indian Child Welfare Clinic

B.A., University of Oregon, Clark Honors College (with honors), 1999

Honors & Recognition

The Best Lawyers in America[®], Native American Law, 2025

Professional Activities

Law360, Native American Editorial Advisory Board, 2023-present

Minnesota American Indian Bar Association, 2003-present

Tribal In-House Counsel Association, Member, 2013-present

Washington Department of Revenue, Tribal Tax Advisory Group, Member, 2014-2019

Washington State Bar Association, Indian Law Section, Member, 2011-present

News

65 Foster Garvey Attorneys Selected to The Best Lawyers in America[®] 2025, Three Named 'Lawyer of the Year'

Foster Garvey Newsroom, 8.15.24

Foster Garvey Promotes Six Attorneys to Principal

Foster Garvey Newsroom, 1.3.22

Foster Garvey Adds Strength to Native American Law Practice with Addition of Chloe Thompson Villagomez

Foster Garvey Newsroom, 4.2.20

Speaking Engagements

"Requirements for sovereign-to-sovereign Tribal consultation," 2023 Washington's Growth Management Act

Speaking Engagement

Interactive Online Broadcast, 11.16.23

"Arm-of-the-Tribe Sovereign Immunity," Lawline CLE Webcast
Speaking Engagement
Webcast, 10.9.23

"2023 SCOTUS Update: Federal Indian Law," Quimbee CLE Online Course
Speaking Engagement
On-Demand Seminar

"Eliminating Barriers to Use of Arbitration by Tribal Government," 25th Annual Dispute
Resolution Spring Conference
Speaking Engagement
Las Vegas, NV, 5.11.23

"Exploring Barriers to the Use of Arbitration by Tribal Governments," Indian Gaming Tradeshow
& Convention 2023
Event
San Diego Convention Center, San Diego, CA, 3.28.23

"Negotiating and Drafting Dispute Resolution Provisions in Tribal Contracts," Tribal In-House
Counsel Association – Lunch in Indian Country CLE Seminar
Speaking Engagement
Virtual Event, 9.28.22

"Washington Indian Tribes and the GMA: Sovereign-to-Sovereign Consultation as a Necessary
Part of Inclusionary Regional Planning," Law Seminars International 29th Annual
Comprehensive Conference
Speaking Engagement
Virtual Event, 9.22.22

"Tribal Sovereign Immunity Update," WSBA Indian Law Section's 34th Annual Indian Law CLE
Seminar
Speaking Engagement
Virtual Event, 6.16.22

"The Indian Law Outlook," Quimbee CLE Seminar.
Speaking Engagement
On-Demand Seminar, 6.10.22

"Indian Law Basics," National Association for Legal Support Professionals (NALS) of
Washington Annual Meeting
Speaking Engagement
Virtual Event, 4.2.22

"Tribal Sovereign Immunity Update: The Tribe Can Do No Wrong, But What About Its Subordinate Entities, Officials, and Employees?" LawPracticeCLE Webinar
Speaking Engagement
Virtual Event, 1.14.22

"Analyzing Recent Indian Law Decisions at SCOTUS: Is this a New Era?" - Lawline
Speaking Engagement
Virtual Event, 9.21.21

"Tribal Employment Law Challenges: Returning Employees to the Workplace"
Webinar
5.8.20 and 5.11.20

"Current Tax Issues in Indian Country," 31st Annual Washington State Bar Association Indian Law Seminar
Speaking Engagement
Seattle, WA, 5.10.19

Contract Training
Speaking Engagement
November and December 2018

Sovereignty and Contracts
Speaking Engagement
May and November 2016

Legal Basics
Speaking Engagement
May 2016

Contract Policy
Speaking Engagement
March 2016

Tribal Employment Law
Speaking Engagement
February 2016

Tribal Governance
Speaking Engagement
October 2015

27th Annual Washington State Bar Association Indian Law Seminar
Speaking Engagement
Seattle, WA, 6.11.15

Legal Alerts

Patent Office Raises IP Questions for Tribes
11.29.23

Washington's Cap-and-Invest Program Creates Opportunity for Tribes to Combat Climate
Change and Generate Governmental Revenues
5.4.23

Publications

"Commentary on *U.S. v. Rickert*," *Feminist Judgments: Rewritten Tax Opinions*, Bridget J.
Crawford & Anthony C. Infanti eds., Cambridge University Press 2017
Cambridge University Press 2017, December 2017

"Contracting Recommendations for Tribal Entities," *Indian Gaming*
Indian Gaming, February 2016

"The Sovereign Immunity of Tribal Officials and Employees after *Maxwell v. County of San*
Diego," *WSBA Indian Law Newsletter*
WSBA Indian Law Newsletter, Spring 2013

"State Workers' Compensation Laws: Unenforceable Against Tribal Employers Both On and Off
Reservations," *WSBA Indian Law Newsletter*
WSBA Indian Law Newsletter, Winter 2011-2012

"New NLRB Rule Presents an Unwelcome Choice for Tribal Businesses," *Indian Country Today*
Indian Country Today, 10.22.11

"Exercising and Protecting Tribal Sovereignty in Day-to-Day Business Operations: What the Key
Players Need to Know," *Washburn Law Journal*, Vol. 49 No. 3, p. 661-716
Washburn Law Journal, Spring 2010

"A Legacy of Public Law 280: Comparing and Contrasting Minnesota's New Rule for the
Recognition of Tribal Court Judgments with the Recent Arizona Rule," Co-author (with Kevin
Washburn), *William Mitchell Law Review*, Vol. 31 Issue 2, p. 479-526
William Mitchell Law Review, January 2004