

CRISPIN T. SOUTH

crispin@crispinsouth.com

EDUCATION

Arizona State University, Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law

Phoenix, AZ

J.D. | Indian Law Certificate | GPA: 3.62 | Rank: 55/185 (Top 30%)

May 2026

Journal: Editor-in-Chief (2025–26), *Arizona State Law Journal* (Flagship Law Review)
Articles Committee Chair (2024–25), *Arizona State Law Journal*

Awards: Juris Doctor Dean's Award
Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community Scholarship
Chahta Foundation Scholarship
John J. O'Connor III Fellowship

Most Persuasive Orator, ASU Model Constitutional Convention, 2024

Activities: President, ASU Native American Law Students Association (2024–25)

University of Oklahoma, David L. Boren College of International Studies

Norman, OK

B.A. in International Security Studies

May 2023

Honors: Pe-et Society for Top 10 Seniors
Oklahoma Legislative Fellow, Oklahoma Capitol Culture

Activities: Vice President, American Indian Student Association
Associate Justice, OU Student Government Association Superior Court
Chair, OU Student Government Association Undergraduate Student Congress

EXPERIENCE

Tribal Public Defender Intern

May 2026 – Present

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Durant, OK

- Researched issues of statutory and constitutional law related to criminal cases in tribal court.
- Assisted attorneys during hearings, client meetings, and strategy meetings.

Student Attorney

January 2026 – April 2026

ASU Law Indian Legal Clinic

Phoenix, AZ

- Represented indigent criminal defendants in tribal court under the supervision of a licensed attorney.
- Analyzed proceedings in pending U.S. Supreme Court cases relevant to tribal sovereignty.

Extern – Staff Attorney's Office

August 2025 – November 2025

Arizona Supreme Court

Phoenix, AZ

- Analyzed petitions for review and prepared memoranda containing summaries of arguments and recommendations for Justices.

Summer Associate

May 2025 – August 2025

Rothstein Donatelli

Tempe, AZ

- Researched issues related to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act & tribal-state gaming compacts.
- Assisted Hualapai Tribal Court of Appeals Justices in legal research & preparation for oral arguments.
- Prepared draft opinions at the request of Hualapai Tribal Court of Appeals Justices.

Criminal Division Extern

January 2025 – May 2025

United States Attorney's Office, District of Arizona

Phoenix, AZ

- Produced memoranda related to sentencing and criminal procedure for Assistant United States Attorneys.
- Researched issues related to searches and seizures, Indian Country crimes, and criminal appeals.
- Spearheaded update to the office's Indian Country Crimes Handbook.
- Assisted federal prosecutors with preparation of warrants and motions.

Judicial Intern

May 2024 – August 2024

Gila River Indian Community Court

Sacaton, AZ

- Prepared draft opinions regarding civil rights issues at the request of tribal court judges.
- Researched issues related to evidence, criminal procedure, and tribal constitutional law.
- Presented research related to truancy prevention and response to tribal legislative committees.

CRISPIN T. SOUTH

crispin@crispinsouth.com

Government Legal Intern

June 2023 – August 2023

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Durant, OK

- Drafted legislation related to landlord-tenant law and alternative methods of testimony by child witnesses.
- Produced memoranda on tribal civil, regulatory, and taxation authority.
- Assisted attorneys with contract analysis, particularly related to tribal sovereign immunity.

Tribal Prosecution Intern

May 2022 – August 2022

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Durant, OK

- Researched issues related to sovereignty, jurisdiction, and criminal law at the request of tribal prosecutors.
- Drafted legislation related to criminal law and criminal procedure at the request of the Chief Tribal Prosecutor.
- Analyzed U.S. Supreme Court and other federal actions and briefed tribal officials on potential consequences.
- Assisted tribal prosecutors with preparations for felony jury trials and criminal appeals.

OTHER

Interests: Hiking, Stickball, Karaoke, Shakespeare, Musical Theatre

Publications: Crispin T. South, Comment, *Let Them Be Tribal Members: Exempting Nonmember Resident Indians from State Taxes*, 57 ARIZ. ST. L.J. 1597 (2026) (nominated for Scribes Law Review Award).

Crispin T. South, Note, *Transplanted Rights in the Choctaw Nation: Threats to Sovereignty and Potential Solutions*, 30 TEX. J. ON C.L. & C.R. 326 (2025).

Crispin South, *Unjustifiable Expense: Tribal Nations Should be Included in FRE 902(1)*, ARIZ. ST. L.J. BLOG (Nov. 2, 2024), <https://arizonastatelawjournal.org/2024/11/02/unjustifiable-expense-tribal-nations-should-be-included-in-fre-9021>.

Presentations: Presenter, Equal Protection & Indian Tribes: A Contextual Framing, Indian Legal Program at ASU Law (April 21, 2026).

Panelist, Keynote Panel: Empowering Indigenous Leaders in the Law, Biennial Conference of the Association of Legal Writing Directors (July 18, 2025).

Panelist, Indigenous Rights in 2025: A Symposium on Current Legal Issues, Texas Journal on Civil Liberties & Civil Rights (Mar. 28, 2025).