

Sam Cohen is the Government Affairs Officer and Legal Officer for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, a position he has held since 2005.



**SAM COHEN**

During his tenure, Cohen led the tribe in their nine-year Fee to Trust application to successfully establish 6.9 acres of land in federal trust for a Chumash Museum and Cultural Center.

Cohen also served as lead counsel for the Tribe in the renegotiation of the Tribal State Compact in 2014 and 2015. He has been instrumental in the tribe's educational legislative efforts that include bill AB 544 which established a teaching credential for the teaching of Native American Languages in 2008. In addition, AB 163 that expanded the previous bill to include a Culture credential in 2015.

Cohen earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Arizona and his law degree from the University of Minnesota and studied law at University College London. He has a graduate law degree (LL.M.) from of the Tax Program at New York University and also served as the managing editor of the Minnesota Law Review.

Prior to practicing Indian law, Cohen practiced law in Tokyo and Guam. He is a frequent author on Native American legal issues and also serves as a board member for the Coalition of Labor, Agriculture & Business (COLAB), Santa Ynez Chamber of Commerce, and Econ Alliance of North Santa Barbara County.



**SANTA YNEZ BAND OF CHUMASH INDIANS**