

Jim Shore

General Counsel
Seminole Tribe of Florida

Jim Shore is General Counsel of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, a 4,200-member Tribe headquartered in Hollywood, Florida, with reservations totaling nearly 90,000 acres and located in several parts of the state.

Jim Shore is the first member of the Seminole Tribe to become an attorney. He was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1981, when he became deputy general counsel of the Seminole Tribe. He took over as the general counsel one year later and has been in charge of all legal matters for the Tribe for the past four decades.

In 1987, he negotiated a landmark Water Rights Compact, which was approved by both state and federal statutes. It settled a major legal dispute between the Seminole Tribe, the State of Florida and the South Florida Water Management District. It defined the rights and obligations of the Seminole Tribe and the State of Florida involving tribal water rights and the environment on the Seminole Big Cypress, Brighton and Hollywood Reservations.

Jim Shore was born in 1945 northwest of Lake Okeechobee on what is now the Brighton Seminole Reservation. He and his two brothers and four sisters grew up in the woods, where the family raised cattle. They lived under traditional Seminole chickees made of cypress logs with thatched palmetto fronds for roofs. There was no indoor plumbing, no television and few roads.

He graduated from Okeechobee High School in 1963. Blinded by an automobile accident in 1970, he elected to attend North Florida Junior College and Stetson University in Deland, Florida, where he earned a bachelor's degree in history. He continued his education at the Stetson University College of Law in St. Petersburg, graduating in 1980. In 2005, Jim Shore was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Laws Degree from Florida State University, Tallahassee.

