



Robert Williams, *Executive Director*, New York State Gaming Commission
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Robert Williams entered public service in 1992 as a N.Y.S. Senate Post-Graduate Legislative Fellow, writing policy papers on privatization and performance planning. At the conclusion of the Fellowship, Williams served as Counsel to the N.Y.S. Senate Finance Subcommittee on Racing, Gaming and Wagering before taking a position as Assistant Counsel at the former N.Y.S. Racing & Wagering Board. During his tenure at the Board, he concurrently served as Counsel to the N.Y.S. Task Force on Casino Gambling and as Executive Director of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Future of Racing. In 2011, Williams took a position as Special Assistant Counsel in the Office of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, providing legal advice and counsel on Native American affairs and gaming related matters.

Williams was later appointed and confirmed as the first Executive Director of the N.Y.S. Gaming Commission, which has regulatory or operational jurisdiction over New York's charitable gambling, commercial casino gambling, horse racing and off-track betting, Indian gaming, interactive fantasy sports, lottery, mobile sports wagering, and video lottery gaming. He returned to the Governor's office as Deputy Secretary in 2017, holding a portfolio limited to racing and gaming policy development and management. In 2019, Williams was re-appointed and confirmed as Executive Director at the Gaming Commission, a position he presently holds. For the last decade, Williams has also held the position of Chairman of the N.Y.S. Franchise Oversight Board, which represents the interests of the State in the real estate at Aqueduct Racetrack, Belmont Park and Saratoga Race Course and oversees the financial operations of the State racing franchise.