



**Irene M. Flannery**  
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Irene M. Flannery is the Director of AMERIND Critical Infrastructure, leading the team in AMERIND Risk's groundbreaking business line designed to help Tribal Nations develop and deploy the most important 21<sup>st</sup> Century critical infrastructure – high-speed “broadband” internet.

Prior to joining the AMERIND team, Ms. Flannery served two tours of duty at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Most recently, she served as Acting Chief of the FCC's Office of Native Affairs and Policy (ONAP). She served as founding Deputy Chief of ONAP for over five years, beginning when the office was created in 2010, where she worked on policies to promote the deployment and adoption of communications services and technology throughout Tribal lands and Native communities. Ms. Flannery has worked closely with Tribal leaders throughout the entire country on a very broad range of telecom and media policy and broadband deployment matters.

During her two separate tours of duty at the FCC, from 1995 to 2000 and from 2008 to 2016, Ms. Flannery held several other senior management positions across the FCC, including in the Wireline Competition Bureau and the Enforcement Bureau. Ms. Flannery's particular areas of expertise include the FCC's universal service programs – including the Lifeline, E-rate, High-Cost, and Rural Health Care programs – and Tribal affairs. Ms. Flannery served as the Chief of the Telecommunications Access Policy Division (formerly known as the Accounting Policy Division) when the FCC created the enhanced Tribal Lands Lifeline program in 2000. She also wrote the original rules for the FCC's E-rate program when it was created in 1997. Ms. Flannery was twice appointed as the Federal staff chair for the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service.

Ms. Flannery also spent seven years serving in several senior management positions at the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), the company that administers all of the federal universal service programs under the direction and oversight of the FCC. She served as Vice President of the High-Cost and Low-Income Division in the early days of the Tribal Lands Lifeline program and was responsible for its management and Tribal outreach. She was also USAC's Acting Chief Operating Officer and Senior Vice President overseeing all four of the universal service programs.

Ms. Flannery holds an undergraduate degree from Duke University, a master's degree in early childhood education from the University of Virginia, and a juris doctorate from Georgetown University Law Center. Raised in Washington, DC, she is a former early childhood educator and criminal defense attorney.