

Navajo Nation Law CLE Conference Friday, October 20, 2017

Indian Legal Program / Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law
Beus Center for Law and Society / Arizona State University

Speaker Biographies

Brenda Anderson

Managing Attorney, Fort Defiance DNA Office, DNA-People's Legal Services, Inc.

Brenda Anderson's primary role is to assist the clients at DNA-People's Legal Services, Inc. in providing free civil legal services to low-income people who are not able to afford to hire an attorney, as well as providing full representation, litigation, legal advice and assistance, brief legal services, and negotiation. In addition to offering community legal education with Pro Se clinics, she volunteers for various projects which includes working with the Navajo Nation Bar Association to improve the quality of our legal system within the Navajo Nation.

Brenda Anderson has over 35+ years of experience in the legal field and active with the Navajo Nation Bar Association and licensed to practice law on the Navajo Nation and been a Board of Bar Commissioner and officer and continues to be involved with the bar association throughout her professional career and continues.



Rodgerick T. Begay

Acting Duty Attorney General, Navajo Nation Department of Justice

Rodgerick T. Begay is Todik'ozhi (Salt Water Clan), born for the Biih Bitoodni (Deer Spring Clan), maternal grandfathers are Kiyaa'aanii (Towering House People), paternal grandfathers are Tsi'naajinii (Black Streak Wood People), this is how he is a Diné (member of the Navajo Nation). His wife and 4 kids are Hashk'aa Hadzohi (Yucca Fruit Strung Out In a Line Clan). He was a Chinle Wildcat before obtaining his B.A. from Arizona State University. He received his J.D. from the University Of Tulsa College Of Law. He has been a member of the Arizona State Bar since 2004 and a member of the Navajo Nation Bar since 2005. He began his legal career in 2005 as an attorney with the Navajo Nation Department of Justice where one of his assignments was assisting all one-hundred and ten (110) Chapter governments with various legal issues. From 2007 to 2013, he worked as a staff attorney for the Chinle District Court and the Window Rock District Court. In 2013, he returned to the Navajo Nation Department of Justice as an Assistant Attorney General in the Economic/Community Development Unit. In 2016, he was appointed as Deputy Attorney General for the Navajo Nation.

Dana Bobroff

Attorney, Counsel to the Navajo Nation Office of the Speaker and Office of Legislative Counsel

Dana Bobroff has worked for the Navajo Nation for close to twenty years, including four years as Deputy Attorney General from 2011 to 2015. She is currently in private practice working as outside counsel for the Navajo Nation Council. Ms. Bobroff received her Juris Doctor from University of Arizona's James E. Rogers College of Law. She practiced as a Certified Public Accountant prior to attending law school.



Colin Bradley

Attorney, Navajo Nation Department of Justice

Colin Bradley is a member of the Navajo Nation (Nation), originally from Flagstaff, Arizona, and attended the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University (ASU). While at ASU Law, Colin received a certificate in federal Indian law and was an active member of the Native American Law Students Association (NALSA).

Currently, Colin is an attorney in the Litigation and Employment Unit (LEU) of the Navajo Nation Department of Justice. As a part of LEU, Colin represents the Nation in various civil litigation matters and assists entities of the Nation with employment law issues.

Daymon Ely

Attorney, Law Office of Daymon B. Ely

Daymon Ely is a 1982 graduate of Arizona State University College of Law. While he is licensed to practice in Arizona and New Mexico, he has spent his entire legal career practicing law in New Mexico. For the last 20 years, Daymon has focused his practice on suing attorneys. He has sued attorneys representing tribal entities. He is a sole practitioner.

He is a former President of the New Mexico Trial Lawyers Association and former Chief Editor for the New Mexico Trial Lawyers Magazine.

He is currently a State Representative at the New Mexico Legislature.



Veronika Fabian

Partner, Choi & Fabian, PLC

Veronika Fabian has been a partner with Choi & Fabian, PLC since 2003. Ms. Fabian received her Juris Doctorate in Law from the University of Michigan Law School in 1993. She also received a Bachelor's of Arts Degree from Cornell University in 1990. She worked at DNA People's Legal Services, Inc., from 1994 to 2003, and was the Director of DNA's Consumer Law Project from 1996-2003.

In 2003, she was awarded the Sharon A. Fullmer Legal Aid Attorney of the Year Award. Ms. Fabian's efforts have resulted in the following published decisions *Walker v. Gallegos*, 167 F.Supp. 2d 1105 (D.Ariz. 2001) (FDCPA); (D.Ariz. 2002), *Wide Ruins v. Stago*, 281 F.Supp.2d 1086 (D.Ariz. 2003); *Howell v.*

Midway Holding, Inc., 362 F.Supp. 2d 1158 (D.Ariz. 2005); Hayward v. Arizona Central Credit Union, 241 Ariz. 350 (App. 2017). She focuses on automobile fraud, abusive debt collection, and credit reporting issues.



Gertrude Lee

Chief Prosecutor, Navajo Nation Office of the Prosecutor

As Chief Prosecutor, Ms. Lee is the chief law enforcement officer of the Navajo Nation. Chief Lee is licensed to practice law in the Navajo Nation and the State of New Mexico. Chief Lee was born in Shiprock, NM, and raised in Kirtland, NM. Chief Lee is Tó'áhání (Near to Water) born for Tótsohnii (Big Water). She began her legal career as a prosecutor in 2010 at the 11th Judicial District, Division II

District Attorney's Office in Gallup, NM. In her years of service as a prosecutor for the State of New Mexico, Chief Lee was primarily assigned to criminal cases involving children, sexual assault, and domestic violence. In November 2016, Ms. Lee accepted the position of Chief Prosecutor of the Navajo Nation. As Chief Prosecutor, Ms. Lee leads the Navajo Nation Office of the Prosecutor, which is tasked with prosecuting crimes occurring on the Navajo Nation and entering on juvenile justice matters involving abuse and neglect and delinquency. Chief Lee received her B.A. in Political Science from Creighton University in 2006 and her J.D. from the University of New Mexico School of Law in 2009.

Emery McCabe

Managing Attorney, Chinle DNA Office, DNA-People's Legal Services, Inc.

Emery McCabe has practiced in Navajo Nation courts for 25 (+) years. He has worked for the Navajo Nation Department of Justice, Navajo Housing Authority and DNA People's Legal Services, Inc. His background includes litigation covering contracts, housing, employment, family law and consumer issues. Presently Emery is the Managing Attorney at the Chinle DNA Office.

He is active with the Navajo Nation Bar Association and licensed to practice law on the Navajo Nation and on the Admissions committee with the bar association and has been involved throughout his professional career.



Kiyoko Patterson

Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona

Kiyoko Patterson is currently assigned to the Violent Crime Section and handles major crime cases arising in Arizona from the eastern Navajo Nation. Prior to joining the U.S. Attorney's Office in 2011, Mrs. Patterson practiced Indian Law with the Gila River Indian Community as Senior Assistant General Counsel and as Tribal Prosecutor. While with the Community, she focused on violent crime, public safety matters, education, housing, code revision and compliance with the Adam Walsh Act. Mrs. Patterson is a member of the Navajo Nation and a graduate of the Indian Legal Program at Arizona State University's Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law.



Paul Spruhan

Assistant Attorney General, Navajo Department of Justice

Paul Spruhan is the Assistant Attorney General for the Litigation and Employment Unit at the Navajo Nation Department of Justice in Window Rock, Arizona. He received his A.B. in 1995 and his A.M. in 1996 from the University of Chicago. He received his J.D. in 2000 from the University of New Mexico. He graduated Order of the Coif and received an Indian law certificate. He and his wife, Bidtah Becker, have two children, and live in Fort Defiance, Arizona.



Gary Stuart

Attorney, Gary L. Stuart, P.C.

Gary Stuart spent 32 years as a partner in Jennings, Strouss & Salmon, PLLC, in Phoenix Arizona. He now practices part time as Gary L. Stuart, P.C. He earned degrees in Finance and Law at the University of Arizona. Martindale-Hubbe lists him as an A-V lawyer and a Premier American Lawyer. He was profiled in *Who's Who in American Law* (First Edition). He is a sustaining member of *Best Lawyers in America*, *Arizona's Finest Lawyers*, and *Southwest Superlawyers*. The Maricopa County Bar Association inducted him into its *Hall of Fame* in October 2010. The *National Institute of Trial Advocacy* honored him with its *Distinguished Faculty* designation in 1994. The University of Arizona Alumni awarded him its *2016 Professional Achievement Award*. He holds the juried rank of Advocate and served as President of the *American Board of Trial Advocates* (Arizona Chapter). Stuart completed an eight-year term on the *Arizona Board of Regents*, and served as its President in 2004-2005. He taught as Adjunct Faculty at the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law (2000-2005). He has been on the Adjunct Faculty at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law since 1994, where he continues to teach Legal Ethics, Legal Writing, and Appellate Advocacy. He also serves as *Senior Policy Advisor* to the Dean at the ASU College of Law. He limits his part-time law practice to legal ethics, bar admission, professional discipline, law firm consulting, and expert witness work in legal malpractice and ethics cases. He served three terms on the Arizona State Bar's Case Conflict Committee as its *Probable Cause Panelist* and is a current member of the Arizona Supreme Court's *Attorney Disciplinary Panel*, which hears disciplinary cases. He was a member of the Arizona State Bar Rules of Professional Conduct Committee for 23 years and served as its chair for ten years. He has written more than fifty ethics committee opinions. He served on numerous ethics-related committees at the state and national levels. He wrote two published books on ethics, and more than one hundred law review and journal articles, op-ed pieces, essays, stories, and CLE monographs. His ten published books are: *"The Ethical Trial Lawyer,"* State Bar of Arizona, 1994; *"Litigation Ethics,"* Lexis-Nexis Publishing, 1998; *"The Gallup 14,"* a novel, University of New Mexico Press, 2000; *"Miranda—The Story of America's Right to Remain Silent,"* University of Arizona Press, 2004; *"AIM For The Mayor—Echoes from Wounded Knee,"* a novel, Xlibris Publishing, 2008; *"Innocent Until Interrogated—The Story of the Buddhist Temple Massacre and the Tucson Four."* University of Arizona Press, 2010; *"Ten Shoes Up,"* a novel, 2015, Gleason & Wall Publishing; *The Valles Caldera*, a novel, 2015, Gleason & Wall Publishing; and, *"Anatomy Of A Confession—The Debra Milke Case,"* ABA Publishing, 2016; *The Last Stage to Bosque Redondo*, a novel, 2016, Gleason & Wall Publishing.