

Navajo Nation Law CLE Conference Friday, October 23, 2015

Indian Legal Program / Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law / Arizona State University

Speaker Biographies



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. Once again, one of his responsibilities is providing legal guidance to all 110 Chapter governments.



Ethel B. Branch

Attorney General, Navajo Nation Department of Justice

Ethel Branch is the Attorney General of the Navajo Nation. She formerly served as an attorney at Kanji & Katzen, PLLC, a law firm solely committed to advocacy on behalf of Native Nations. There Ethel advised and represented Native Nations on a variety of issues, with a focus on restoring tribal natural resources and shielding tribal revenues. Previously, Ethel was an indigenous human rights attorney in Washington, D.C., where she helped advance the implementation of the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the United States and the Americas. Ethel also served as a tribal finance associate assisting tribes in gaining access to the capital markets and in leveraging tribal assets to fund the development of critical capital infrastructure in Indian country. Ethel is a graduate of Harvard University, where she earned her B.A. cum laude in History, her Masters in Public Policy, and her J.D.



Eric N. Dahlstrom

Partner, Rothstein, Donatelli, Hughes, Dahlstrom & Schoenburg, L.L.P., Tempe Office

J.D., University of Wisconsin – Madison (1976)
B.A., Beloit College cum laude (1972)

Eric N. Dahlstrom is a partner in the Tempe office of The Rothstein Law Firm. Mr. Dahlstrom has limited his practice to the field of Federal Indian Law for over thirty-five years and specializes in Indian Gaming. Mr. Dahlstrom was named Lawyer of the Year—Gaming Law—Phoenix Area for 2013 by *Best Lawyers*®. Mr. Dahlstrom and The Rothstein Law Firm are currently serving as Special Prosecutor to the Navajo Nation. The Rothstein Law Firm also served as the first Navajo Nation Special Prosecutor beginning in 1989 and successfully prosecuted former Chairman Peter MacDonald, Sr. and other Navajo Nation officials for a variety of violations of Navajo Nation laws. Mr. Dahlstrom’s career has tracked the growth in the practice of Federal Indian Law over the past thirty-five years. Mr. Dahlstrom represents tribes in Arizona and in Wisconsin and has been involved in nearly every development in the growth of Indian gaming law in both Arizona and Wisconsin. Mr. Dahlstrom also has an active practice in the field of natural resources protection and development on behalf of federally recognized Indian Tribes and Indian economic enterprises, involving mineral development, water rights, and federal, state, and tribal taxation of natural resource development in Indian Country. Mr. Dahlstrom has also actively participated in the protection of the legal rights of Native Americans through his work for Indian legal services, the Arizona Bar Foundation, and the William E. Morris Institute for Justice.



Sheri Freemont

Senior Director, Casey Family Programs, Indian Child Welfare

Sheri Freemont (Turtle Mountain Chippewa/Omaha) is a Senior Director with Casey Family Programs in the Indian Child Welfare Unit, where she focuses on providing technical support to state and tribal jurisdictions to improve outcomes for tribal children and families in child welfare systems, as well as supporting the Indian Child Welfare Act practices in national projects and state forums. Ms. Freemont previously served as the Director of the Family Advocacy Center and as the Chief Prosecutor for the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

Sheri has served as President of the Native American Bar of Arizona, Chair of the Indian Law Section for the State Bar of Arizona, President of the Arizona Tribal Prosecutors Association, and a member of the Board of Directors for the Child Crisis Center of Mesa. Ms. Freemont was appointed to Attorney General Holder’s Violence against Women in Tribal Prosecution Task Force (2011).

Ms. Freemont is a graduate of Arizona State College of Law, (J.D.), and a Certificate in Federal Indian Law. She completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Portland, in Portland, Oregon.

Justin Jones

Law Offices of Justin Jones, Founder

J.D., University of Kansas School of Law, (Certificate of Indian Law, Government, & Natural Resources)
B.A., Political Science, Fort Lewis College

Justin Jones is from Rock Point, Arizona and is currently in private practice with The Law Offices of Justin Jones, P.C. in Farmington, New Mexico.

**Myles V. Lynk**

Peter Kiewit Foundation Professor of Law, Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law and the Legal Profession Affiliated Faculty in Justice Studies, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Arizona State University

A.B., Harvard College (1971)

J.D., Harvard Law School (1976)

A graduate of Harvard Law School, Professor Lynk served as a law clerk to Judge Damon Keith on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit; as a Special Assistant to the U.S. Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare and on the White House Domestic Policy Staff in the Carter Administration; as a lawyer in private practice in New York, NY, and Washington, DC; and as a professor at the George Washington University School of Law, before coming to ASU. In 1982 he served as a counsel on the staff of the Special Counsel to the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, investigating allegations of improper conduct between Congressmen, congressional staff and House pages. In January 2000 he joined the faculty of law at Arizona State University as a Visiting Scholar from Practice. He is now the Peter Kiewit Foundation Professor of Law and the Legal Profession, and teaches civil procedure, legal ethics and business organizations. In 2014 he was a visiting Fellow at Magdalene College, University of Cambridge, and a visitor in the Faculty of Law, University of Cambridge. In Fall 2010 he was a Visiting Professor at the Duke University School of Law in Durham, NC, where he taught civil procedure and an ethics seminar. In 2008-2009 Professor Lynk was a Visiting Honors Faculty Fellow at ASU's Barrett Honors College. From 2004 to 2010 Professor Lynk served as ASU's Faculty Athletics Representative to the NCAA and the Pac-10 (now Pac-12) Conference, working with the university's NCAA Division I intercollegiate athletics department on various issues involving student-athletes, the NCAA and the Conference. In 2005 Professor Lynk was appointed by ASU's President to conduct an investigation for the university into safety and accountability issues arising from the off-campus shooting death of one student by another student. Professor Lynk has served as Chair of the American Bar Association's Section of Individual Rights and Responsibilities and as a chair of the ABA's Standing Committee on Professional Discipline. He served two terms on the Civil Rules Advisory Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States, an emeritus member of the governing Council of the American Law Institute (ALI); is a past President of the District of Columbia Bar; a past national Chair of the Fellows of the American Bar Foundation ("ABF"); and is the incoming Chair of the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Ethics and Professional Responsibility.



Doreen N. McPaul

Tohono O'odham Nation, Office of the Attorney General

Doreen Nanibaa Mcpaul is a graduate of Princeton University and earned her Juris Doctorate from the Arizona State University College of Law in 2001, where she also received a Certificate in Federal Indian Law. During law school, Ms. McPaul worked for the Native American Rights Fund in Washington, D.C. and for the American Indian Law Center's Pre-Law Summer Institute in Albuquerque, New Mexico, which she attended in 1998. Ms. McPaul also served as the President of ASU's Native American Law Student's Association and as a staff writer for the ASU Law Journal. After law school, Ms. McPaul was a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Jefferson L. Lankford (retired) of the Arizona Court of Appeals. Ms. McPaul then worked as a staff attorney for the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch in Chinle, AZ before joining the Nordhaus Law Firm in Albuquerque, NM. Ms. McPaul also spent a year as a visiting clinical law professor and Interim Director of the Indian Legal Clinic at ASU. Since 2009, Ms. McPaul has worked as an Assistant Attorney General for the Tohono O'odham Nation in Sells, AZ. Ms. McPaul has over 11 years of experience practicing Indian law, and is admitted to practice law in Arizona and New Mexico, as well as before several tribal and federal courts. Ms. McPaul is Navajo (Kinyaa'áanii) and grew up on the Navajo Reservation in Chinle, AZ. She is married to SSG Mark McPaul and they have two boys, ages 2 and 4, and are expecting a third child this summer



April Olson

Associate, Rothstein, Donatelli, Huges, Dahlstrom & Schoenburg, LLP

April Olson is an attorney with the Rothstein Law Firm in Tempe, Arizona and currently practices in the field of federal Indian law and tribal law. She joined the firm in May 2010 after working for the Gila River Indian Community for three and a half years. Her Indian law experience includes a wide variety of practice areas, including criminal law, employment law, civil litigation, water law and Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) matters. Ms. Olson graduated from the Arizona State University Sandra Day O'Conner College of Law in 2006 with an Indian Law Certificate from the nationally recognized Indian Legal Program. Ms. Olson is licensed to practice in the State Courts of California and Arizona, the District Court of the Arizona, and the tribal courts of the Gila River Indian Community, the San Carlos Apache Tribe, the Hualapai Tribe, the Kaibab Band of Pauite Indians and the Havasupai Tribe. Ms. Olson has represented several tribes in ICWA matters in over 10 states across the country. Prior to law school, Ms. Olson did social work for the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. Ms. Olson is also a former Chair of the Indian Law Section of the State Bar of Arizona and a member of the Native American Bar Association.

Tina Tsinigine

Staff Attorney, Tuba City Judicial District

My name is Tina Tsinigine, I am of the Manygoats clan, born for the Towering House clan. My chei is of the Deer Water clan and my nali is of the Cliff Dwellers clan. I am from Coppermine, Arizona and I have worked for the Judicial Branch of the Navajo Nation as a Staff Attorney for the past seven years, my designated court is the Tuba City Judicial District.