

## Navajo Nation Law CLE Conference Friday, October 19, 2018

Indian Legal Program / Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law / Arizona State University  
Beus Center for Law and Society, Room 644  
111 E. Taylor Street, Phoenix, AZ 85004

### Speaker Biographies

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#### **Raven J. Attwood**

Staff Attorney, Office of the Navajo Public Defender

Raven Attwood graduated from Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law in 2015 with a Juris Doctor and Indian Law Certificate. He was admitted to the Navajo Nation Bar in 2016 and has worked for the Office of the Navajo Public Defender for three years. Mr. Attwood represents indigent clients in criminal and delinquency matters in the Kayenta, Tuba City, and Dilkon Judicial Districts.



**Jasmine Blackwater-Nygren**  
2L, ASU Law

Hasht'ishnii nishfį́ dóó 'Áshijhí báhshíchíín. Nóoda'í dine'é Táchii'nii dashicheii dóó Bit'ahnii dashinálí.

Jasmine is a second-year law student at Arizona State University. She graduated from Stanford University in summer 2017 with a Bachelor of Arts in Science, Technology, and Society with a concentration in the Environment and Sustainability and a minor in Native American Studies. In summer 2018, Jasmine worked at the Navajo Nation Office of Legislative Counsel. Jasmine is currently working for the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation Office of General Counsel.



**Colin Bradley**  
Attorney, Bradley Law, PLLC

Colin Bradley is the owner/founder of Colin Bradley Law, PLLC—which is a boutique law firm specializing in litigation and Indian law. Mr. Bradley has extensive litigation experience in the courts, and administrative tribunals, on the Navajo Nation. Prior to starting his own firm, he was a member of the Litigation Unit of the Navajo Nation Department of Justice.

Outside of his practice, Mr. Bradley is a member of the board of bar commissioners for the Navajo Nation Bar Association (NNBA). He also regularly teaches courses for the NNBA's bar review course.

Mr. Bradley is a member of the Navajo Nation (Nation) and attended the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University (ASU). He is admitted to practice in Arizona, various tribal courts, federal district court, and the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.



**Derrick Burbank**

Staff Attorney, Shiprock Judicial District

Derrick is the Staff Attorney for the Shiprock Judicial District of the Navajo Nation. He is licensed to practice in The Navajo Nation and the State of New Mexico. Born and raised in Fort Defiance, Arizona Derrick is Mą'ii Deeshgiizhinii (Coyote Pass People) born for Bit'ahnii (Folded Arms People). He began his legal career in 2005 with DNA-People's Legal Services, Inc. where he served as a

Tribal Court Advocate at DNA's office in Window Rock, Arizona and later served as the Managing Advocate of DNA's office in Shiprock, New Mexico. Derrick received his B.S. in Justice Studies from Arizona State University in 2000 and his J.D. from the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University in 2005.



**Christopher B. Chaney**

Unit Chief - Criminal Justice Information Law Unit, FBI Office of General Counsel

Chris is an enrolled member of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation in Oklahoma.

Bachelor of Arts from the University of Oklahoma (1984). Juris Doctor from Brigham Young University's J. Reuben Clark Law School (1992).

Chris started his legal career in Farmington, New Mexico. He was admitted to the Navajo Nation Bar in 1993. Chris litigated extensively in the Navajo Nation District Courts in Shiprock and Crownpoint and served as a Hearing Officer for the Navajo Nation Housing Authority. In 1997, Chris became an Assistant United States Attorney in Salt Lake City and prosecuted federal crimes from the Utah portion of the Navajo Nation.

Since 2012, Chris has served as the Unit Chief for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Office of the General Counsel, Criminal Justice Information Law Unit (CJILU). The CJILU provides legal advice to the FBI's Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division in Clarksburg, West Virginia which serves 18,000 tribal, federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies.

Bar memberships include: Navajo Nation, Utah, New Mexico, and the United States Supreme Court.



**Candace French ('17)**

Staff Attorney, Navajo Nation Office of Legislative Counsel

Originally from Anadarko, Oklahoma, Candace French is an enrolled member of the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes and is of Navajo, Comanche, and Blackfeet descent. Candace received her B.A. in Political Science, B.A. in American Indian Studies, M.A. in Criminal Justice, and J.D. with a certificate in Indian Law, all from Arizona State University. She was admitted to practice in the State of Arizona in December 2017, is a member of the Indian Law section, and serves as the Area 2 representative for the Young Lawyers Division. She is also admitted to practice law in the Navajo Nation. Candace serves as an attorney at the Navajo Nation Office of Legislative Counsel. She provides legal representation and legislative services to the 24 member Navajo Nation Council, standing committees and other programs within the legislative branch. Candace has more than 10 years of experience working in Native American communities and has dedicated herself and her legal career to serving Indian Country.



**Edward J. Hermes ('13)**

Associate, Snell & Wilmer

Hermes represents corporate, government and tribal entities in complex commercial disputes in state, tribal and federal courts. He has extensive forensic litigation experience and appellate experience in matters before the Arizona Court of Appeals and Navajo Nation Supreme Court. He advises tribally designated housing entities (TDHE) in compliance issues and policy formation in accord with the Native American Housing and Self Determination Act. Hermes also represents and advises non-tribal corporations conducting business in Indian Country on the laws of native sovereign nations.

Hermes received his J.D. from the Sandra Day O'Connor School of Law at Arizona State University where he was an associate editor for the Arizona State Law Journal. He received a B.S. in Public Policy Advocacy and a B.A. in History from Arizona State University as well. Hermes was ranked as a Rising Star in Southwest Super Lawyers 2018 edition (Native American Law) and the Phoenix Business Journal ranked him in their 20 People to Know in Law (2016).

Prior to joining Snell & Wilmer, Hermes was an attorney for Quarles & Brady where he also completed his summer associate program. He is an active member of the school board for St. Michael Indian School, a board member for Kino Border Initiative and a board member for the Osborn School District Educational Foundation. Hermes is licensed to practice in Arizona and on the Navajo Nation.



**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)

Myles Lynk is the Peter Kiewit Foundation Professor of Law and the Legal Profession in Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University ("ASU"), a faculty fellow of the Center for Law, Science and Innovation and a member of ASU's Academic Council. He teaches legal ethics and professional responsibility, business organizations, corporate governance and civil procedure at the College of Law, and a law and literature seminar for undergraduate Barrett Honors College students. Professor Lynk previously clerked for Judge Damon J. Keith on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, served on the White House Domestic Policy Staff and as a Special Assistant to the U.S. Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, and was a partner in the Washington, DC, office of a large multinational law firm.

At ASU, Professor Lynk also serves as a senior honor thesis director for Barrett, The Honors College, undergraduates, and is an affiliated faculty member in Justice and Social Inquiry at the School of Social Transformation of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. In 2016-17 Professor Lynk was a Senior Fellow in ASU's Lincoln Center for Applied Ethics and used this opportunity to work on necessary updates to the Navajo Nation Bar Association's Rules of Professional Conduct. In 2014 was a visiting fellow at Magdalene College, Cambridge, and a Visitor in the Faculty of Law at the University of Cambridge, England, where he studied the UK's regulation of its legal profession as compared to evolving regulatory practices in the US. In 2010, Professor Lynk was a Visiting Professor at the Duke University School of Law in Durham, NC.

ASU President Michael Crow appointed Professor Lynk to serve from 2004 to 2010 as ASU's Faculty Athletics Representative to the NCAA and the Pac-10 (now Pac-12) Conference, working with ASU's intercollegiate athletics department on matters involving student-athletes, the NCAA and the Conference. In 2005, President Crow appointed Professor Lynk to conduct the university's investigation into safety and accountability issues arising from the off-campus fatal shooting of one student by another student. The "Lynk Report" which resulted from the investigation led to significant improvements in safety measures at ASU.

In his national public service Professor Lynk applies his expertise and expands his experience in legal ethics through his service as Chair of the American Bar Association's ("ABA's") Standing Committee on Ethics and Professional Responsibility (2014-2017) and of the ABA's Standing Committee on Professional Discipline (2010-2013). Professor Lynk's work in bioethics has been enhanced through his prior service as: Chair of the ABA's Special Committee on Bioethics and the Law, a member of the National Advisory Commission on Addiction Treatment of the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, and a member of the Phoenix Area Institutional Review Board of the U.S. Indian Health Service. His expertise in civil procedure was recognized when he was appointed by Chief Justice William Rehnquist to two terms on the Civil Rules Advisory Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States. Professor Lynk's teaching in business law and corporate governance is informed by his participation in the Transatlantic Corporate Governance Dialogue, his leadership roles in the ABA's Section of Business Law and his corporate work in private practice.



**Nicholas H. Mattison**

Attorney, Feferman, Warren & Mattison

Nicholas Mattison is a partner at Feferman, Warren & Mattison. His practice includes individual cases and class actions against fraudulent car dealers, predatory lenders, abusive debt collectors, and other businesses that rip off consumers. Mr. Mattison has won judgments for his clients at trial and in arbitration. In 2017, he won a \$7.3 million judgment against a payday lender. In 2016, he won a \$10 million dollar verdict against an abusive debt collector. Mr. Mattison is a 2008 graduate of Harvard Law School. Prior to joining the firm, Mr. Mattison clerked for the Honorable Edward L. Chavez on the New Mexico Supreme Court, and worked for four years in the Window Rock office of DNA-People's Legal Services, where he fought for the rights of members of the Navajo Nation.

**Robert Yazzie**

Chief Justice Emeritus of the Navajo Nation Supreme Court

The Honorable Robert Yazzie is a retired chief Justice of the Navajo Nation. He was the Chief Justice of the Navajo Nation from 1992 through 2003. He practiced law in the Navajo Nation for 16 years, and he was a district judge for eight years. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Oberlin College of Ohio and a juris doctor degree from the University of New Mexico School of Law. He is now teaching Navajo Law at the Navajo Technical University. He was the Director of *Diné*Policy Institute of *Diné* College (Navajo Nation), developing policy using authentic Navajo thinking.

He is a member of the Navajo Nation Bar Association. He is the author of articles and book chapters on many subjects, including Navajo peacemaking, traditional Indian law, and international human rights law. He is a visiting professor at the University of New Mexico School of Law, an adjunct professor of the Department of Criminal Justice of Northern Arizona University and a visiting member of the faculty of the National Judicial College. He recently taught Navajo law at the Crownpoint Institute of Technology. Chief Justice Yazzie continues a career devoted to education in formal participation in faculties, lectures and discussions of traditional indigenous law at various venues throughout the world. He has a global audience and he has frequently visited foreign lands to share his wisdom about traditional indigenous justice and governance.