

Navajo Nation Law CLE Conference Friday, October 25, 2019

Indian Legal Program / Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law / Arizona State University
Beus Center for Law and Society, Room 240
111 E. Taylor Street, Phoenix, AZ 85004

Speaker Biographies



Shawn Attakai ('00)

Staff Attorney, Crownpoint District Court, Navajo Nation Judicial Branch

Shawn Attakai is a Staff Attorney for the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch. He is licensed in the Navajo Nation, Arizona, and has degrees from Arizona State University and Dartmouth College. To balance his western education, Mr. Attakai has undergone formal rigorous apprenticeship training over several different mentors over more than a decade, and has extensive knowledge in his Diné ways. He considers this as his “post-secondary education.”

Over 17 years, Mr. Attakai has been an attorney for the Navajo Nation, other tribes and in private practice. He is presiding judge for Yavapai Apache Nation, a peacetime Marine veteran, former culture instructor at Diné College and a trainer for Diné judges on Fundamental Law and other subjects. He is Bit'ahnii (Folded Arm) and Tabaaha (Edge Water), and married to To Aheedliinii (Water Flows Together Clan). Mr. Attakai currently resides with his family in Crownpoint, NM.



Colin Bradley ('14)

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 Law). He is admitted to practice in Arizona, various tribal courts, federal district court, and the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.



Jordan Hale ('09)

Staff Attorney, Dilkon Judicial District, Navajo Nation Judicial Branch

Jordan Hale is from the community of Sundance, near Churchrock, New Mexico. Jordan received his BA in English & Studio Art from Georgetown University, and his Juris Doctorate with a certificate in Indian Law from the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University.

Jennifer Henry

Acting Chief Prosecutor, Navajo Office of the Prosecutor

Jennifer Henry is currently the Acting Chief Prosecutor for the Navajo Nation. She's juggling that position along with her role as the prosecuting attorney in the Ramah Judicial District. Ms. Henry never thought she'd be a prosecutor, and her former journeys include private law practice in Colorado, staff attorney for the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch, staff attorney for the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission, starting and folding a private civil and family law practice in the Navajo Nation, and then as a partner at Rosebrough Law in Gallup focusing on civil transactional law in AZ and NM for 6 years before returning to serve the Navajo Nation as a prosecutor.



Candace French ('17)

Attorney, Sacks Tierney

Candace French has more than ten years of experience working in Native American communities and has dedicated herself and her legal career to serving Indian Country.

Originally from Anadarko, Oklahoma, Candace is an enrolled member of the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes and is of Navajo, Comanche, and Blackfeet descent.

Prior to joining Sacks Tierney, Candace was an attorney in the Navajo Nation Office of Legislative Counsel. In that capacity, she provided legal representation and legislative services to the 24-member Navajo Nation Council, standing committees and other programs within the legislative branch.

Admitted to practice in Arizona and the Navajo Nation, Candace is a member of the State Bar of Arizona Indian Law Section.

Candace received bachelor's degrees in Political Science and American Indian Studies, a master's degree in Criminal Justice, and her J.D. with a certificate in Indian Law, all from Arizona State University.



Brian Lewis ('09)

Attorney, Brian Lewis Legal LLC

Brian Lewis is a member of the Navajo Nation Bar Association whose practice of the law has focused on economic development, including the development and operation of various projects and commercial operations within the Navajo Nation. He has advised and represented the Navajo Nation government, tribally-owned instrumentalities, and private commercial entities as a government attorney with the Navajo Nation Department of Justice and in private practice.

Bernadine Martin

Attorney at Law

Bernadine Martin received her bachelor's degree from the University of Denver and her law degree from the University of Arizona. She served McKinley County as first an Assistant District Attorney and then a Deputy District Attorney before being named Chief Prosecutor of the Navajo Nation. Today she lives in Gallup, NM with her 8 cockatiels and practices family law.

Ms. Martin is licensed in New Mexico and Navajo Nation courts.



Arash N. Moalemi

General Counsel, Navajo Tribal Utility Authority

Since 2013, Arash N. Moalemi has managed the legal team of the NTUA, the largest tribally owned and operated multi-utility entity in the United States. The NTUA's service territory is over 27 thousand square miles, spreading across northern Arizona, northwestern New Mexico and a small portion of southeastern Utah (roughly equal to the size of the state of West Virginia). Mr. Moalemi obtained his degree in Business Administration, Operations Management from California State University Fullerton and later earned his Juris Doctorate from Florida Coastal School of Law. He is licensed to practice law in CA, AZ, NM, UT and the Navajo Nation. Mr. Moalemi serves on the Board of the Colorado River Energy Distributors Association, the Transmission and Access Policy Study Group and is the voting member of the American Public Power Association Legislative and Regulatory Committee. He has spent his entire 10 years legal career serving his Navajo people.