

Linda Austin

Linda Austin has served the Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo for over 29 years and currently holds the position of Chief Operations Officer. In this role, she oversees the Pueblo's Budgeting, Grants Management, Human Resources, and Information Technology divisions, focusing on operational efficiency and strategic alignment with tribal priorities. Linda also manages the Pueblo's Self-Governance initiatives, including federal funding agreements and tribal compacts.

Throughout her career, Linda has contributed to several key initiatives, such as developing the Pueblo's socioeconomic profile, conducting economic impact studies, and coordinating the establishment of a joint venture health clinic. She also plays a central role in managing the Pueblo's annual operating budget and supporting tribal programs through collaborative planning and resource allocation.

Linda represents the Pueblo on national committees and workgroups, such as the Bureau of Indian Affairs Contract Support Costs Workgroup and the Indian Health Service Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee. Her participation in these groups supports policy development and advocacy efforts that benefit Self-Governance Tribes.

In addition to her operational responsibilities, Linda has been involved in financial literacy and economic progress initiatives. She has supported the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program to provide free tax preparation services to tribal families and has participated in various community development projects.

Linda holds an MBA in Management and a BA in Journalism from the University of Texas at El Paso. Her professional experience and dedication to community-focused governance continue to guide her work with the Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo.

Estakio Beltran

Estakio Beltran (Tolteca-Mexica, Tlatoani) serves as the Partnership Advisor at the Department of the Interior's Office of Strategic Partnerships within the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs. In this role, Estakio collaborates with the White House Council on Native American Affairs and various federal agencies to advance initiatives focused on conservation, economic development, and the revitalization of Native languages. His work emphasizes public-private engagement between philanthropy, Tribal organizations, and the business sector.

Raised in central Washington on the Yakama Nation, Estakio has dedicated over a decade to advising senior members of Congress and high-ranking officials in Washington, D.C. He later returned to his roots to work in philanthropy, partnering with community-based organizations to enhance the economic resilience of Tribal and rural communities. Estakio's approach is driven by a bold vision for systems change through community-centered solutions.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts from Gonzaga University and a Master of Public Administration from Columbia University in New York.

Allison Binney

Allison is a lawyer and political consultant focused on representing Native American tribal governments and entities for over 20 years. She currently runs her own law office and is a partner at PACE Government Relations. Her current work focuses on public policy, administrative law, gaming law, and advising on and negotiating agreements between tribal and state governments. Allison advocates on behalf of clients before Congress and federal agencies and serves as a subject matter expert before state legislatures.

Prior to that, Allison was a partner at a large international law firm based in Washington, D.C. She also served as senior staff, including staff director and chief legal counsel, to the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs from 2005 to 2011. While at the Committee, Ms. Binney oversaw and assisted in efforts to enact numerous laws impacting Native Americans including provisions in the Affordable Care Act, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the Tribal Law and Order Act, reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, several class-action lawsuit settlements, tribal water rights, and laws relating to housing, the leasing and development of Indian lands, homeland security and language and cultural preservation. Ms. Binney also oversaw congressional investigations and oversight of federal agencies that interact with American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians.

Prior to serving on the Indian Affairs Committee, Allison served as a lawyer at small and big law firms specializing in American Indian law, as the program coordinator for the Indian Legal Program at Arizona State University College of Law, and as a law clerk for the Native American Rights Fund in Washington, D.C.

Allison received her J.D. from Arizona State University College of Law in 2000 and her Bachelor of Arts degree from California State University, Chico. She is a citizen of the Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians in Northern California, and in her spare time she focuses on Native American youth issues serving as the Chair of the Advisory Board for the Center for Native American Youth at the Aspen Institute.

Geoffrey Blackwell

Geoffrey Blackwell is General Counsel and Chief of Staff for the National Congress of American Indians. Blackwell brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to NCAI, following eight years of service as the chief strategy officer and general counsel for AMERIND. Blackwell was the founding chief of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Office of Native Affairs and Policy, where he spearheaded efforts to bring modern communication technologies to tribal communities nationwide. In 2000, he also made history as the first enrolled member of a federally recognized Tribal Nation to work at the FCC. Blackwell has played a pivotal role in advocating for broadband policy on behalf of Tribal Nations. He has testified before Congress on seven occasions, and before the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. In 2020, was honored as a co-recipient of Public Knowledge's IP3 Internet Protocol Award.

In addition to his role as general counsel and chief of staff, Blackwell maintains active engagement in various national organizations. He serves on the boards of the Native American Rights Fund and the American Indian Policy Institute at Arizona State University. He has also dedicated his efforts to assisting Tribal Nations through involvement with the National Small Business Association, National Federation of Community Broadcasters, Native Public Media, Acoma Business Enterprises, and the Indigenous Commission for Communications Technologies in the Americas. Additionally, within NCAI, he assumes leadership responsibilities as co-chair of both the Economic, Finance, and Community Development Committee and the Technology and Telecommunications Subcommittee.

Raised in Oklahoma and New Mexico, Blackwell is Chickasaw, Choctaw, Omaha, and Muscogee Creek. He comes from a family deeply involved in tribal leadership and federal service dedicated to Indian Country. He is a graduate of Dartmouth College and the University of Virginia School of Law.

Steve Bodmer

Bodmer has served as an in-house attorney with the Pechanga Office of the General Counsel ("POGC") for the past 5 years, joining as Deputy General Counsel in 2011 and currently serving as General Counsel. Steve is an enrolled member of the Edisto Natchez-Kusso Tribe of South Carolina. Steve received his Juris Doctor from Arizona State University College of Law, where he also received

the Indian Legal Program Certificate for extensive study in the area of Federal Indian law. Prior to joining POGC Steve worked in Washington, D.C. on Indian law matters, practiced Indian law in the private practice setting in Phoenix, Arizona, and served as General Counsel for a tribe in Central California. In his role as General Counsel, Steve provides legal counsel to the Tribal Council, the Tribal Government and each of its departments. In addition to his responsibilities over Pechanga Tribal Government legal matters, Steve also oversees the legal affairs of the largest casino and resort in California, the Pechanga Resort & Casino, and provides legal counsel to the Pechanga Development Corporation. Among other areas of practice, Steve specializes in federal Indian law, gaming law, tribal governance, and tribal economic development. Steve is a founding executive board member of the Native American Bar Association of Arizona and is licensed to practice law in California, Arizona, and Washington, D.C.

Daune Cardenas

Daune Cardenas is a member of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. She is the Pascua Yaqui Development Corporation (PYDC) CEO. She earned her JD from U of A James E Rogers College of Law, her undergrad in Business Administration from NAU, and is licensed to practice law in the State of New Mexico and the Pascua Yaqui Tribal Courts. Daune worked for the Pascua Yaqui Tribe Office of the Attorney General from 2015 until 2019 and has been the CEO of PYDC, the Tribe's Section 17 Corporation, since 2019. She oversees Sonoran Pueblo Contracting LLC, certified as Tribal 8(a), and a HUBZone construction company under the SBA. Sonoran Pueblo Contracting LLC is the only Tribal 8(a) in Arizona. Additionally, Daune has helped launch a profitable property management division under the PYDC umbrella that is now a Real Estate Management Company, PYDC Ventures LLC, which will also be a Tribal 8(a).

Maranda Compton

Lepwe Inc.

pronunciation: Lep (rhymes with yep) – way

Maranda Compton is a nationally recognized expert on issues of Native American law and policy and a highly sought after strategic consultant in the energy and technology spaces. She is the Founder and President of Lepwe, a consulting boutique that provides strategic advice and education to Tribal Nations and non-tribal entities, foundations, and governments seeking to consult, engage, and partner with Tribes.

Her current work spans co-development projects in transmission and energy generation; partnerships between venture capital and Tribal Nations, with a special focus on the development of hard science technology and manufacturing in Indian Country; and advocacy for Tribal Digital and Data Sovereignty.

Maranda is a citizen of the Delaware Tribe of Indians, a mother, and a resident of Missoula, Montana.

Scott Crowell

Scott Crowell, of Crowell Law Office – Tribal Advocacy Group PLLC, has practiced extensively in the area of Indian law since the late 1980s. Scott received both his law degree and economics BS degree from Arizona State University.

Scott has devoted his law practice exclusively to the representation of Indian Tribes, with rare exception. Scott has been deeply involved in Indian gaming issues in several states and on national issues. Scott has served as lead negotiation counsel in compact negotiations for nearly two dozen tribes in nine states. He has served as lead litigation counsel in lawsuits over the application and interpretation of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act for a dozen tribes in eight states, including, but not limited to: *Rincon Band v. Schwarzenegger*, *Spokane Tribe v. United States*, and *Maverick Gaming v.*

United States. Scott has provided technical assistance to many more tribes and authored amicus briefs in other litigation, including *West Flagler v. United States*, on behalf of the National Indian Gaming Association, now IGA, and regional tribal organizations.

Based in Sedona, Arizona, through this broad base of experience, Scott is able to share his expertise in similar problems that have been addressed in different compact and regulatory structures in different states.

Andrea Delgado-Olson

Andrea Delgado-Olson (she/her) is a citizen of the Lone Band of Miwok Indians from the Northern Sierra Foothills of California. She is the Executive Director at IndigiGenius, an Indigenous-led nonprofit organization working to increase the representation of Native/Indigenous people in advanced technology fields. Andrea holds a bachelor's degree in education and master's degree coursework from Northeastern University (formerly Mills College, Oakland CA).

Melanie Fourkiller

Melanie Fourkiller serves as the Director of Self-Governance and Health Policy for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. With over 27 years of experience in tribal government, she has been instrumental in advancing self-governance and health policy initiatives for the Choctaw Nation, which serves over 250,000 citizens across 10 1/2 counties in southeastern Oklahoma^{[1][2]}. Before joining the Choctaw Nation in December 2011, Melanie held several key positions with the Cherokee Nation, including Secretary of State, Executive Officer (Chief of Staff), and Self-Governance Administrator^[2]. Her extensive background also includes six years with the Kaw Nation, where she worked on program development, administration, and federal/tribal negotiations^[2]. Melanie is of Cherokee and Choctaw descent and is originally from Stilwell, Oklahoma^[2]. She has been a dedicated advocate for tribal self-governance and has served on numerous intertribal workgroups and committees, consulting with various tribal governments on policy matters^[2]. Would you like to know more about her specific contributions or achievements?

References

[1] [Expansion of Tribal Self-Governance Authority to Select Department of ...](#)

[2] [MELANIE FOURKILLER KNIGHT - House](#)

Charles W. Galbraith

Charles is a citizen of the Navajo Nation with almost 20 years of experience helping tribes understand and utilize their unique legal standing and political relationships in the United States. As Co-Chair of the firm's Native American Law Practice and a partner in the Government Controversies and Public Policy Litigation Practice, Charlie represents tribal clients in complex litigation matters, sensitive internal investigations, and major financial transactions—all with a careful eye on the unique challenges that tribal leaders must consider when trying to obtain the best possible long-term outcomes.

Charlie previously served in the White House for President Barack Obama as Associate Director of Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Engagement. In this role, he managed the Administration's relationship with all tribal governments and Native American people. Charlie advised the President, cabinet members and Executive Branch agencies on political, legislative, legal, administrative and media issues in what has often been cited as one of the most successful periods for the advancement of Native American affairs. During his White House tenure, he also served as Deputy Associate Counsel for presidential personnel, where he conducted background investigations and vetted individuals under consideration for presidential appointments.

As an Assistant US Attorney for the District of Arizona, Charlie successfully investigated and prosecuted a wide array of federal offenses. As a Legislative Assistant to then-United States Senator Tim Johnson (D-SD), he advised the senator on Indian Affairs, Judiciary and Appropriations matters. These federal government experiences inform Charlie's practice today and make him a sought-after lawyer for tribal governments and businesses and individuals navigating complex and interconnected legal, political, and policy challenges.

Anthony Gray

Anthony Gray is the Culture & Language Program Manager for the Gila River Indian Community's Tribal Education Department. He is a member of the Gila River Indian Community and from the village of Lower Santan. Anthony is Akimel O'odham, Tohono O'odham and Diné. He is currently a student at Arizona State University and received his Associate's Degree in Organizational Management from Chandler-Gilbert Community College.

Carly Griffith Hotvedt

Carly Griffith Hotvedt, JD, MPA is a citizen of Cherokee Nation living on the Muscogee Reservation in Tulsa, OK. She is a seasoned legal professional, admitted to practice in Oklahoma, Cherokee Nation and Muscogee Nation, with an affinity for government law, agriculture, tribal policy and public administration. In her current role as Executive Director, she leads the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative at the University of Arkansas School of Law, interfacing with tribes and tribal organizations to advance tribal food sovereignty by empowering tribes to engage in policy development, regulatory efforts, economic development, outreach, and investment into Tribal food economies, enterprises, and public services.

Linnea Jackson

Linnea Jackson is a Hoopa Tribal Member, and she serves as the General Manager of the Hoopa Valley Public Utilities District (HVPUD). HVPUD is a chartered entity of the Hoopa Valley Tribe in Northern California whose mission is to build a strong foundation of utility infrastructure and ensure a framework for quality growth and expansion on the Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation and aboriginal territory. HVPUD manages the Tribe's domestic and irrigation water systems, solid waste management, utility construction, broadband, digital equity and energy initiatives.

Under her guidance, the Hoopa Valley Public Utilities District continues to thrive, providing essential services while respecting and upholding the values and traditions of the Hoopa Valley Tribe.

Jackie Johnson

Jackie Johnson, Director of the Arizona Department of Gaming (ADG), was appointed by Governor Katie Hobbs to lead ADG and began her role in February of 2023. Prior to joining ADG, she was an attorney at Rothstein Donatelli in Tempe, Arizona, representing tribes and tribal entities in a range of issues, including tribal gaming. Specifically, Jackie was the facilitator for the tribal regulatory subcommittee which included gaming operators, gaming regulators, and attorneys, working on regulatory provisions and 18 appendices to the 2021 Amended and Restated Tribal-State Compact, building tribal consensus, and working in collaboration with the Department of Gaming. Jackie brings a new perspective to the ADG and is using her experience to help strengthen the partnership between the state and tribes and support the tribal gaming industry for a stronger Arizona.

Jackie received her Juris Doctor from the University of Michigan Law School and her undergraduate degree from Dartmouth College. She is a first descendant of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and was born and raised on the Tribes' reservation, the Flathead Reservation, located in northwest Montana.

Kristan Johnson

Telephone Operations Manager, Tohono O'odham Utility Authority

Kristan Johnson has been a dedicated member of the Tohono O'odham Utility Authority (TOUA) team for over 23 years. As the Telephone Operations Manager, Kristan plays a crucial role in ensuring reliable and efficient telephone services for the Tohono O'odham Nation. Her extensive experience and commitment to the community have been instrumental in advancing TOUA's mission to provide high-quality utility services.

Kristan's leadership has been pivotal in the implementation of new technologies and the expansion of services to remote areas of the reservation. She is passionate about using her expertise to educate and empower tribal members, helping them stay connected and preserve their heritage. Under her guidance, TOUA has made significant strides in improving communication infrastructure, including the recent establishment of a fiber-optic network to enhance internet connectivity^[1].

Kristan's dedication to her work and her community is evident in her daily efforts to ensure that every customer receives the best possible service. Her vision and hard work continue to drive TOUA's success and contribute to the well-being of the Tohono O'odham Nation.

References

[1] [Networking: Getting connected on the Tohono O'odham Nation](#)

Stacy Leeds

Leeds is the Dean of the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law. Previously she served as [Foundation Professor of Law and Leadership](#) at the ASU Law. She is a scholar of Indigenous law and policy and an experienced leader in law, higher education, economic development and conflict resolution. She holds law degrees from [University of Wisconsin](#) (LL.M.) and [University of Tulsa](#) (J.D.), a business degree from [University of Tennessee](#) (M.B.A.), and an undergraduate degree in history from [Washington University in St. Louis](#) (B.A.).

Leeds was the first Indigenous woman to serve as a law school dean. She served as dean of University of Arkansas School of Law (2011-2018) and as the inaugural Vice Chancellor for Economic Development, University of Arkansas (2017-2020). She has been a professor and administrator at University of Kansas and University of North Dakota, and a William H. Hastie Fellow at University of Wisconsin. She is an elected member of the American Law Institute and a recipient of the American Bar Association's Spirit of Excellence Award.

Leeds prioritizes public service at the national and local level. She is a former Cherokee Nation Supreme Court Justice and former Chair of the Cherokee Nation Gaming Commission. She currently serves as a founding board member and treasurer of the Foundation for America's Public Lands, a congressionally-chartered non-profit. She is a corporate board member for [Kituwah LLC](#) (wholly owned business diversification company of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians) and board vice-president of [Native Forward Scholars Fund](#) (formerly American Indian Graduate Center).

Leeds is passionate about food, agriculture and wellness. She co-founded the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative and now serves as board president of [Akiptan](#) (a Native CDFI providing capital to farmers and ranchers) and vice-chair of the board of trustee for the [Native American Agriculture Fund](#) (a private, charitable trust serving Native farmers and ranchers created from the historic *Keepseagle v. Vilsack* settlement).

Stephen Roe Lewis

Lewis is in his third term serving as Governor of the Community, having previously served as Lt. Governor. Prior to serving in elected leadership, Governor Lewis served the Community as a member

of the Board of Directors for the Gila River Healthcare Corporation, as a Gaming Commissioner for the Gila River Gaming Commission, and as a member of the Board of Directors for the Gila River Telecommunications, Inc.

Lewis graduated from Arizona State University with a Bachelor's of Science and pursued graduate studies at John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Governor Lewis currently oversees the implementation of the Community's Water Settlement of 2004 (at that time the largest water settlement of its kind in United States history). Governor Lewis advocates for renewable and green technologies guided by O'odham agricultural history and cultural teachings. Governor Lewis's vision is to support a new generation of Community member agriculturalists with the goal of promoting and protecting the Community's shudag (water) and agricultural development.

During his tenure as Governor of the Gila River Indian Community, Governor Lewis has brought innovative solutions to long-standing issues that will create long-term gains for the Gila River Indian Community. One of these projects, Management Aquifer Recharge sites, brings together the need for access to water while restoring the return of the Community's riparian area which is vital for farming and the return of wildlife to the Community. Bringing back the Gila River, which is critical to the culture and identity of the Gila River Indian Community, has been a key milestone during Governor Lewis' Administration and one that will lay the foundation for future projects across the Community.

Joseph Lilly

Joseph Lilly serves as vice president of external affairs and communications for Caliber Financial Services, a tribally-chartered corporation wholly owned by the Otoe-Missouria Tribe of Indians. Joe is responsible for the Company's public relations, media strategy, government relations, lobbying, and issue advocacy functions. A 15-year fintech veteran, Joseph was previously chief marketing officer from 2012 to 2015 and before that was president of PartnerWeekly (now Acquire Interactive), a leading fintech marketing services provider.

Joseph holds a Master of Jurisprudence in Indian law from the University of Tulsa and earned his Bachelor of Arts in music and psychology (magna cum laude) from Coe College, where he researched and published on the folk instruments of the Lao, Tai, and Muong peoples. When he isn't working, Joseph spends quality time with his wife, three children, three dogs, and not nearly enough guitars.

Aurene Martin

Aurene M. Martin is the President of Spirit Rock Consulting, Inc., and a member of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. With extensive experience in federal Indian law and policy, Aurene has held several key positions in both Tribal and Federal governments.

At Spirit Rock Consulting, she represents Indian tribes on federal law and policy issues, specializing in Tribal land acquisition, the fee-to-trust process, Tribal gaming, and general Tribal government matters. She also handles a significant number of legislative policy issues, successfully advocating for her clients on federal land transfers and tax issues.

Before founding Spirit Rock Consulting, Aurene served as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary and Acting Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs at the Department of the Interior. She also worked as Senior Counsel to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, where she played a key role in developing legislation involving tribes, particularly in gaming and health care.

Aurene began her career as Senior Staff Attorney for the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, where she managed Indian Child Welfare Act litigation, state legislative affairs, and gaming matters. She

holds a Juris Doctorate from the University of Wisconsin Law School and is a member of the District of Columbia and Wisconsin State Bar[1][2][3].

References

[1] [Aurene M. Martin - Congress.gov](#)

[2] [Biography Aurene M. Martin - House](#)

[3] [Native Lobbying Firm Spirit Rock Consulting Adds Two Partners](#)

Dr. Brandon Mastromartino

Dr. Brandon Mastromartino is the Principal and Founder of Experiential Insights and an Assistant Professor of Sports Wagering and Gaming at the L. Robert Payne School of Hospitality and Tourism Management at San Diego State University. Brandon's research focuses on the psychology of sports fans, the intersection of sports fandom and sports betting, and the development of consumer insights that inform strategies for sport organizations, corporate partners, gaming operators, and regulatory bodies. He has published over 30 peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters exploring regulatory frameworks, policy development, and responsible marketing practices within sports wagering. Outside of academia, Brandon collaborates with organizations across the sports, gaming, and entertainment industries. In 2024, he was named to Global Gaming Business Magazine's (GGB) 25 People to Watch list for 2025. He specializes in sports betting market strategy, regulation, responsible marketing, and sponsorship measurement. His collaborations include work with FanDuel, the New York Mets, New York Rangers, Florida Panthers, Los Angeles Football Club, and Major League Baseball. At SDSU, Dr. Mastromartino teaches courses focused on marketing and data driven decision making. He works with students who aspire to build careers in the sports, gaming, events, recreation, tourism, and hospitality industries. Prior to joining SDSU, he taught at the University of Georgia, Southern Methodist University, and the University of North Texas.

Kris Mayes

Kris Mayes is one of Arizona's strongest consumer advocates and an attorney who has distinguished herself as a fighter for the people in a lifetime of public service. Born and raised on a tree farm in Prescott, Kris Mayes attended Arizona public schools with her brother and sister. Her mom was a teacher and her dad worked as a pharmacist. Kris served in a senior role with the Napolitano Administration in the early 2000's before being appointed to the Arizona Corporation Commission. She went on to win two statewide elections and served as a Commissioner from 2003 - 2010 and was the Commission Chair from 2009 - 2010.

During her time on the Arizona Corporation Commission, her leadership helped create tens of thousands of high-paying jobs, saved Arizona consumers billions of dollars, and required utilities to produce more clean and efficient energy — including solar and wind. She also worked to preserve Arizona's water resources. She is honored to serve as Arizona's 27th Attorney General, becoming the first mom and second woman ever to be elected to the office.

Robert J. Miller

Miller is a Professor of Law, the Faculty Director of the Rosette, LLP American Indian Economic Development Program and the Willard H. Pedrick Distinguished Research Scholar, Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University. He serves on the Navajo Nation Council of Economic Advisors; Justice, Grand Ronde Tribe Court of Appeals; Citizen Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma.

Robert Miller's areas of expertise are civil procedure, federal Indian law, American Indians and international law, American Indian economic development and Native American natural resources. An enrolled citizen of the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, he is the Chief Justice of the Court of Appeals for the Grand Ronde Tribe and sits as a judge for other tribes.

Before joining the College of Law in 2013, Professor Miller was on the faculty of Lewis & Clark Law School. Prior to his career in academia, he practiced Indian law with Hobbs, Straus, Dean & Walker, and worked for the Stoel Rives law firm. Following graduation from law school, he clerked for Judge Diarmuid O'Scannlain of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Professor Miller's published works include articles, books and book chapters on a wide array of federal Indian law issues and civil procedure, and he speaks regularly on Indian law issues across the U.S. and in other countries. He is the author of *Native America, Discovered and Conquered: Thomas Jefferson, Lewis and Clark, and Manifest Destiny* (2006), and *Reservation "Capitalism: Economic Development in Indian Country* (2012), and he co-authored *Discovering Indigenous Lands: The Doctrine of Discovery in the English Colonies* (Oxford University Press 2010). Professor Miller's blog on Indian affairs was noted by the *wallstreetjournal.com* and a poll of leading Indian blogs, and will be archived by the Library of Congress. He also has worked as a consultant with the American Philosophical Society since 2006 on tribal language and archival issues. He was elected to the American Law Institute in 2012 and to the American Philosophical Society in 2014. He earned a BS Eastern Oregon University, 1988 and a JD from Lewis & Clark Law School, magna cum laude in 1991.

Allyson Mitchell

Allyson Mitchell is the GM of Mohawk Networks, LLC, an ISP owned by the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Section 17 Holding Company, the Tewathahonni Corporation. Mitchell is responsible for the long-term success of the fiber and wireless broadband provider, and the company is certified as an 8(a) entity by the Small Business Administration. The community's adoption trajectory of broadband increased at a rate that impacted reliability of the first-generation network, and in her role, she has focused on investing in the core network, adding redundancy, capacity and higher availability to secure infrastructure for the community of Akwesasne, its tribal members, and the future demands of the next generation. Distance learning, virtual healthcare and e-commerce demands drive the strategic direction of the company, delivered by a highly-skilled workforce. Under Mitchells' leadership, the company has steadily focused on economic diversification, sustainability and influencing tribal broadband priorities for Indian Country. Mitchell represents the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe as an appointee on the FCC's Native Nations Communications Task Force, serving as Vice-Chair, as a Board Member for the Native American Contractors Association, an appointee on NYS Connect All Broadband Access Advisory Committee and as the Akwesasne Boys & Girls Club Treasurer

Traci Morris

Dr. Morris, a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma, is the Executive Director of the American Indian Policy Institute and a Research Professor at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University. The AIPI is an Indigenous-led and staffed research institute at Arizona State University whose work supports Tribal communities and Indigenous peoples nationwide. AIPI does this by creating academic research focused on key issues in Indian Country, by analyzing and developing policy on the key issues of Indian Country, and by building capacity within an ecosystem of lifelong learning. Morris' expertise and focus is substantively on tribal digital sovereignty, broadband technology, and digital equity, with expertise in tribal telecommunications, communications policy, and newly emerging systems as they impact sovereign Tribal nations.

Anoosh Motamedi

Anoosh is a seasoned technology leader and business strategist with over 20 years of experience driving growth, optimizing operations, and leading high-performance teams across diverse industries. He is currently serving as the Chief Information Officer (CIO) at LCO Financial Services, where he plays a critical role in shaping the company's IT strategy and overseeing IT operations. Under his

leadership, he has successfully transformed the organization's IT infrastructure, enabling rapid growth and enhanced profitability.

In addition to his role at LCO Financial Services, Anoosh serves as the Chief Technology Officer (CTO) at LCO Technology Group, where he has been instrumental in the development of a suite of innovative fintech products designed to streamline operations for lenders. His work in this capacity has helped drive significant efficiencies and business value.

Throughout his career, Anoosh has held senior leadership positions in various organizations, consistently demonstrating a proven track record in scaling operations, launching new products, and expanding businesses into new markets. His expertise in systems integration, business intelligence, and customer experience has empowered organizations to optimize processes and unlock new revenue opportunities.

Anoosh holds an MBA from Washington University and a B.S. in Engineering from the University of Missouri-Rolla. In addition to his professional accomplishments, he is passionate about education and mentoring. He serves as a Program Coach and Guest Instructor at Washington University's Olin Business School, where he shares his knowledge in business technology and strategy with aspiring leaders.

Travis Olson

Travis Olson serves as the Senior Vice President of Tribal Pursuits and Engagement for Tepas Companies, a Tribal Owned Construction and Engineering Company owned by the Paskenta Band of the Nomlaki Indians, with a wealth of experience exceeding 30 years in architecture and construction, including 15 years working with tribal communities. He has been a guiding force in all aspects of the development process, from vision to construction. Travis is a proud University of Oregon's School of Architecture graduate.

Lenny Powell

Lenny Powell is a Staff Attorney in the Washington, D.C. office of the Native American Rights Fund, where he litigates appeals and voting rights. He has helped win six cases at the U.S. Supreme Court, including *Haaland v. Brackeen* and *McGirt v. Oklahoma*. Before law school, Lenny was an elected leader of his federally recognized tribe, the Hopland Band of Pomo Indians.

Matthew Rantanen

Matthew R. Rantanen is the Director of Technology for the Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association (SCTCA) and the Tribal Digital Village Initiative for 23 years, designing and deploying networking supporting tribal communities of Southern California. Currently the Vice President Tribal Broadband at the GoldenStateNet, focusing on Tribal opportunities in the CA Governor's Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative.

Matthew, of Cree (First Nations, Canada), Finnish, and Norwegian descent, has been described by his peers as a "cyber warrior for Tribal community networking" and is considered an expert on community/Tribal wireless networking. He is an advocate for net-neutrality, broadband for everyone, and opening more spectrum for public consumption, always looking out for the unconnected. Matthew helps the 25 member tribes of SCTCA with technology development and strategy.

Matthew was appointed as Co-Chair of the Technology and Telecom Subcommittee of the National Congress of American Indians. Working with tribes to draft telecom policy and promote better opportunities for Tribes within the Federal Government. He serves on the Advisory Board for Arizona State University's, American Indian Policy Institute.

Matthew was named to the FCC Native Nations Broadband Task Force by the FCC Chairman, Genachowski, in 2011, and then reappointed under FCC Chairman Wheeler, serving 2 full-terms. He was also named to the Communications Security, Reliability and Interoperability Council's 4(CSRIC4) at the FCC in June 2013.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/matthewrantanen/>

Ernie Rassmussen

Ernie Rasmussen, Citizen of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin, is currently serving as the Executive Director for Bigfoot Communications of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation. Among his duties is to marry broadband infrastructure investments with much needed broadband services while balancing digital equity services in a green field broadband development. Mr. Rasmussen has spent his entire 30-year career in service to Tribes, including as Tribal Liaison at the Washington State Department of Commerce, Digital Equity Manager at the Washington State Broadband Office, Senior Planner of Economic Development for the Colville Tribes, Executive Director of a 501c3 on the Spokane Indian Reservation, a College Math Instructor at a Tribal College, and a GED instructor. He currently serves on many national and regional boards and committees, always serving to remind his colleagues of the importance of partnership with Tribal communities. His wife, Amy is a Spokane Tribal member and together they have 3 beautiful and supremely talented daughters and one very very cool 4-year-old grandson offering a chance to relive the amazing age of dinosaurs, race cars, and bugs!

Daniel Ray

Daniel Ray is a distinguished Partner at Rosette, LLP, bringing over two decades of legal expertise to the firm. Specializing in corporate law and mergers & acquisitions, Daniel has successfully navigated complex legal landscapes for clients ranging from emerging startups to established multinational corporations.

Graduating magna cum laude from Harvard Law School, Daniel's academic prowess laid a strong foundation for his stellar career. His keen analytical skills, coupled with a strategic mindset, have consistently delivered favorable outcomes for clients in high-stakes negotiations and litigation.

At Rosette, LLP, Daniel is renowned for his client-centric approach, forging long-lasting relationships built on trust and integrity. His commitment to excellence and ethical practice underscores every aspect of his work, making him a respected figure both within and outside the firm.

Outside the courtroom, Daniel is an avid supporter of pro bono work, dedicating his time to various community legal aid initiatives. He is also a frequent speaker at legal seminars and conferences, sharing his insights and expertise with the broader legal community.

In his downtime, Daniel enjoys hiking, traveling, and spending quality time with his family.

Ben G. Ray III

Tribal Administrator & CEO

Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians of the Big Valley Rancheria

Born and raised in Northern California where he currently resides, Ben grew up within 5 miles of the Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians of The Big Valley Rancheria, where he is an enrolled member.

Ben has 30+ years of providing consulting and contracting services to Tribal governments and non-profit entities in the areas of tribal government and economic development.

Ben is currently the Tribal Administrator for the Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians and the CEO of multiple Tribally owned corporations. Ben has used a straightforward and collaborative approach to problem solving by optimizing Tribal government programs and services, as well as economic diversification for Tribes in the pursuit of making the future a brighter place for Native children, youth, adults and Elders.

Judy Reagan

Judy is an innovative executive with more than 30 years of experience leading organizations, projects, and people. She has a demonstrated ability to drive growth executed by diligent operations and financial prudence. As a creative problem solver, Judy thrives in times of change while keeping a long-term focus. She pre-emptively identifies and resolves bottlenecks and risks to cultivate high-performing culture and teams. She has worked in the 8(a) program for almost 10 years with 5 of those being at Tribally-owned firms.

Eric Reamer

Eric Reamer is a highly accomplished leader with over 20 years of proven success in the financial services industry. As Chief Operating Officer at Lac Courte Oreilles Financial Services, he is recognized for his exceptional business acumen, innovative spirit, and dedication to driving sovereign enterprise and economic prosperity within Indian Country.

Eric is known for his collaborative leadership style, effectively optimizing efficiency, driving productivity, and maximizing profitability. He is a personable and supportive leader who fosters a strong team environment while achieving outstanding results.

Prior to joining Lac Courte Oreilles, Eric held leadership roles in the consumer finance sector where he developed his operational expertise and consistently exceeded expectations.

Matthew Riedell

Matthew Riedell is a dedicated leader currently serving as the Director of Strategic Operations for Lac Courte Oreilles Financial Services. In this role, he focuses on utilizing existing technologies to enhance products, processes, and overall efficiency. Prior to this position, Riedell was the Call Center Manager for the organization, where he played a crucial role in improving operational capabilities. His work is deeply rooted in maximizing the tribe's resources to offer more effective and streamlined services to the community.

Riedell's commitment to the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians spans over 11 years. His career includes seven years as the Director of Emergency Management, where he led efforts to strengthen the tribe's resilience and improve its ability to prepare for, mitigate, and respond to disasters. This included the lengthy and ongoing response to threats from the COVID-19 pandemic. His leadership in this area has been essential to ensuring that the tribe is better equipped for a wide range of emergencies, from natural disasters to unforeseen crises.

In addition to his leadership roles, Riedell is certified in Emergency Management and Water/Wastewater Utility management, bringing a well-rounded skill set to his work. As a proud member of the Lac Courte Oreilles Band, he is also a devoted husband and father of four. Riedell's work and personal values are centered on service to his community, and he continues to push for innovative solutions to benefit both the tribe's operations and its long-term sustainability.

Kathlene Rosier

Rosier is the Assistant Dean of Institutional Progress and the Executive Director of Indian Legal Program (ILP) at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University. She is an enrolled member of the Comanche Nation of Oklahoma. In this role Rosier leads the ILP's recruitment

and retention efforts and is in charge of the ILP's development and grant work. Rosier served as Director of the ILP from 2000-2011 and returned as Executive Director in 2014. During her three-year absence from the ILP Rosier served as an Assistant General Counsel for the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation. Prior to joining ASU, she worked as a tribal prosecutor for the Gila River Indian Community. Rosier received her J.D. from the University of Utah in 1998 and a BA from Capital University in 1993.

Michael Running Wolf

Michael Running Wolf (Northern Cheyenne and Lakota) was raised in a rural prairie village in Montana with intermittent water and electricity; naturally he has a Master's of Science in Computer Science. Michael was an engineer at Amazon's Alexa, former faculty at Northeastern University, and is a researcher at Mila. Michael is researching Indigenous language reclamation using immersive technologies and artificial intelligence. His work has been awarded a MIT Solve Fellowship, the Alfred P. Sloan Fellowship, the Centri Tech Social Justice Innovation Award, and the Patrick McGovern AI for Humanity Prize. Through the ethical application of AI and advanced technology respecting traditional ways of knowing he is contributing to the ecology of thought represented by the Indigenous.

Jason Searle

Jason Searle's legal practice and expertise include Federal Indian Law, religious and cultural resources protection laws, environmental law, and federal administrative law. Asserting and defending tribal jurisdiction is among Jason's greatest interests and concerns. Jason found the importance of tribal jurisdiction reinforced from the beginning of his legal career with the Litigation Unit of the Navajo Nation Department of Justice. While at Navajo DOJ, Jason helped in litigation to vindicate the Navajo Nation's jurisdiction as a matter of its inherent sovereignty and treaty rights.

Jason continues to focus his work on maximizing and defending Tribal Nations' jurisdictional prerogatives, including in the growing sphere of tribal digital sovereignty. For example, last year, Jason helped prepare and file a brief centered on tribal digital sovereignty in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Writing on behalf of the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes and the National Congress of American Indians, the brief argued that Montana's impending TikTok ban threatened to encroach upon the sovereignty and jurisdiction of Tribal Nations in Montana. The brief also brought attention to the digital divide facing all Indian country and contended that states should help to close the divide and avoid actions that could undermine tribal digital sovereignty.

John R. Shotton

John R. Shotton is the current Chairman of the Otoe-Missouria Tribe of Indians. He has served in that capacity since being elected in November 2007. Prior to being elected to the office of Chairman, he served on the Tribal Council as the First Member for two years.

Chairman Shotton holds a Bachelor of Business Administration and a Master of Public Administration Degree from the University of Oklahoma. Prior to serving the Otoe-Missouria Tribe, Chairman Shotton worked for the University of Oklahoma's American Indian Institute developing and administering programs for tribes across the United States.

In 2012, Chairman Shotton was recognized as one of the "Native American 40 under 40" by the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development.

Chairman Shotton is a member of the Owl Clan and belongs to the Otoe Eloska Society as well as the Red Rock Creek Gourd Dancers. John is married to Dr. Heather Shotton and they have two daughters, Sloan and Sophie Shotton.

Jay Spaan

Jay is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation. He joined SGCETC as the Executive Director in 2018. Jay also serves as an Adjunct Professor at Arizona State University, developing and teaching Tribal Self-Governance courses in ASU's Indian Legal Program. Prior to joining SGCETC, Jay spent more than a decade evaluating the effectiveness of Federal Indian Programs as a Senior Analyst at the U.S. Government Accountability Office. In addition, Jay serves as Vice-Chair on the Board of Directors for the Society of American Indian Government Employees. Jay holds a Master of Jurisprudence in Indian Law from the University of Tulsa and a Master of Public Administration.

Katherine A. Spilde

Katherine Spilde, Ph.D. MBA, is a cultural anthropologist and Professor in the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management at San Diego State University (SDSU), where she serves as Endowed Chair of the Sycuan Institute on Tribal Gaming. In her role as Sycuan Chair, Dr. Spilde teaches the nation's only four-year degree in tribal casino operations management. Prior to her appointment at SDSU, Katherine held leadership positions at UC-Riverside, the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development, and the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA.) She was also a Policy Analyst and Writer for the National Gambling Impact Study Commission, a Congressional commission that produced a comprehensive study of U.S. gambling policy for President Clinton in 1999.

An award-winning author of over 50 academic articles, Dr. Spilde has produced national, state and tribal gaming impact studies and has worked extensively with over 100 tribal governments on nation-building activities. A long-time advocate for public health, she also serves on the Board of Directors for the International Center for Responsible Gaming.

Trina Starr

Trina Starr was born in and spent her early years in Chicago, IL., before she entered middle school, she moved back to LCO. Trina Starr is from the Anishinaabe Ojibwe People where she is a descendant from two Ojibwe Tribes of Wisconsin Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO) and Lac du Flambeau (LDF), where she is an enrolled member and currently resides/employed by the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe. Her resilience raising three siblings, working full-time, attending high school and college contribute to her success and dedication.

Trina was a first-generation college student who currently holds a Bachelor's in Social Work (1995-2000), and a Master's in Social Work from the University of Minnesota Duluth (2004-2006). She began her professional career as a Family Living Educator working for the LCO Community College Extension (2006) creating and building a program of resources for families and communities within the Tribal community that continue today. While attending graduate school, she worked as the Community, Natural Resource, Economic Development Educator for the LCO Tribe and University of Wisconsin Extension which focused on community and policy change. She has experience as a keynote speaker and consulting specifically on family services, historical trauma, and resiliency. After obtaining her Masters, she became the Director of Mentoring Children of Promise Program that was geared for children with incarcerated parents on the reservation. She developed a big brother/big sister mentoring program and was a mentor herself. She has lead chair positions on several committees, event organizer, and participated with Get out the Native Vote initiative during Obama first administration.

Trina shifted careers holding positions as the Director of Finance and Contracts, and the Facility Security Officer for a small business, whereas she led IT and Human Resources working directly with government subcontracting managing the entire operations. Trina began her career in the Financial Services-Tribal Lending space as the Operations Manager in 2015, Director of Operations 2016, and

currently as the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) since 2023 which has grown from 5 employees to over 100+.

Trina has a passion for life and people; she applauds change and innovation that can directly affect and build our communities, families, and people.

Mikhail Sundust

Mikhail is the Executive Director of Digital Connect, an initiative of Gila River Telecommunications, Inc. As an enrolled member of the Gila River Indian Community, he is honored to serve the people and place he feels most connected to, and he enjoys learning about his Akimel O'otham and Pee Posh heritages. Mikhail holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Arizona and a Master of Public Administration (MPA) from Arizona State University. He lives in Casa Grande with his wife and two children.

Sherry Treppa

Sherry Treppa is Chairperson of the Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake, a federally recognized Indian Nation in Upper Lake, California. Treppa has served the Tribe as an elected official since 2004, serving as the Chairperson since 2008. While tasked to preserve the Tribe's Pomo culture, Treppa leads the effort to continually strive for economic self-reliance, through e-commerce, gaming and other economic opportunities within the Tribe's jurisdiction.

Treppa worked in private industry for 18 years prior to her role with the Tribe. She was born in Lake County and graduated with a Bachelor of Science from the University of San Francisco. Treppa's ongoing efforts have contributed to the process of restoring the Tribe's land base and the furtherance of the Tribe's goal of economic self-reliance. She has spearheaded efforts funding negotiations and recently its refinance for the Tribe's current gaming ventures, played a vital role in overseeing the construction of the Tribe's Casino and represented the Tribe in raising capital, structuring and development of the Tribe's e-commerce businesses.

Chairperson Treppa is often called upon to testify in her capacity as an experienced tribal leader at legislative hearings for a variety of issues impacting Indian Country demonstrating her commitment to Native American interests and their mission of achieving economic growth and financial stability. She was awarded 2021 Tribal Chairperson of the Year by NAFOA (Native American Finance Officers Association), a national respected tribal organization focused on growing tribal economies and strengthening tribal finance. In 2019 Treppa and her Tribe co-produced "Saving the Sacred" a short documentary recently nominated for an Emmy on development of an MOA-Memorandum of Agreement- with other local Sovereign Tribal Governments and the County of Lake for protection of sacred sites and artifacts. An effort (MOA) that earned the California State Governor's Historic Preservation Award in 2016.

Jennifer Weddle

Weddle (Northern Cheyenne) is the Co-Chair of the Greenberg Traurig's American Indian Law Practice and has wide-ranging experience in complex regulatory and jurisdictional issues, with a focus in Indian law, handling a variety of matters for tribal and non-tribal clients. She is based in Denver, Colorado. She has a dynamic, inter-disciplinary practice that centers on providing strategies for resolving complex jurisdictional problems. Much of her practice focuses in the areas of tribal economic development and natural resources development. Jennifer also has U.S. Supreme Court experience, including serving as one of the attorneys for the respondent in *Nevada v. Hicks* (2001) and representing the petitioners in *Ute Mountain Ute Tribe v. Padilla* (2012) and *Grand Canyon Skywalk Development, LLC v. Grand Canyon Resort Corporation* (2013) and cert stage amici in *Saginaw-Chippewa Tribe v. NLRB* (2016) and *United States v. Cooley* (2020) and amici on the merits in *Lewis v. Clarke* (2017), *U.S. v. Washington* (2018), *Carpenter v. Murphy* (2018), *McGirt v.*

Oklahoma (2020), United States v. Cooley (2020), Denezpi v. United States (2021), Oklahoma v. Castro-Huerta (2022), Navajo Nation v. United States (2023) and Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians v. Coughlin (2023).

Jennifer has broad trial and appellate litigation experience (more than 40 trials), and frequently litigates jurisdictional issues. She is also experienced in sovereign models for consumer lending and energy development. Jennifer frequently assists tribes, banks and non-bank entities with financing and regulatory matters with Indian law components.

She is past President of the National Native American Bar Association, past Chair of the Federal Bar Association Indian Law Section, and currently serves as the Tenth Circuit Representative on the American Bar Association Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary, a role she has held since 2018, serving as the lead evaluator for 50 federal judges in that time. She has been the Chair of the Harvard Law School Native American Alumni Committee since 2006 and is a frequent guest lecturer at the Law School and the Kennedy School. She is currently teaching American Indian Law II on an adjunct basis at the University of Colorado School of Law. She is a 1997 graduate of the University of Michigan, where she majored in Classical Languages and Literature.

Leslie Wheelock

Leslie Wheelock is an enrolled member of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin.

She currently operates Wheelock Consulting, providing legal and strategic consulting services to American Indian Tribes and Native-owned businesses. Leslie recently joined the Cornell University Board of Trustees. She also serves on the Board of Trustees for the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI), the Phillips Collection in Washington, DC, and the Southwestern Association for Indian Arts (SWAIA). She is also a corporate board manager of the Oneida ESC Group and volunteers as the co-chair of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Resolutions Committee.

As an Obama appointee, Leslie was the Principal Advisor to the Secretary and Director of the Office of Tribal Relations at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Prior to her move into public and non-profit service, Leslie served more than 20 years in C-Suite legal and management roles in international technology and telecommunications corporations, including IBM, MCI, Oracle, Euronet and others.

Leslie is a member of the New York, Connecticut and Washington, DC Bars. Her JD and MBA are from Cornell University Law School and the Johnson Graduate School of Management at Cornell.

John Williams

John Williams has nearly 30 years experience in American Indian, business transaction, corporate and energy law. He has worked for large and small corporations, large law firms and recently decided to form his own law firm in February, 2018 dedicated solely to Native American issues. John focuses on business transactions, energy development, tribal law, tribal corporate structure, and regulatory law. John brings an excellent blend of legal, technical and business expertise. He began his professional career as a reservoir engineer with a leading oil and gas corporation. Later, he returned to law school where he specialized in Native American and natural resources law. During an internship with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, John wrote a model environmental code for use by tribal governments. This experience provided the basis for his first publication, The Effect of the EPA's Designation for the Tribes as States on the Five Civilized Tribes in Oklahoma. Additionally, he drafted the Cherokee Nation's original environmental code. Using his diverse background, John was also a contributing author for the Resources for the Future study which analyzed the renewable energy policies of the 17 most populous states. His experience with corporate structure and the interplay of

business and tribal culture contributed to the article Paving the Way for the Future: Potential Structures for Tribal Economic Development and to several presentations of “When Worlds Collide: The Collision of Tribal and Corporate Culture.” He has also served as a contributing author to the Encyclopedia of American Indian History. John gained in-depth energy expertise as an attorney and business development manager for a leading energy corporation and has practiced before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the Comisión Reguladora de Energía in Mexico. His diverse experience in energy matters involved such areas as FERC regulated pipelines, power generation and transmission, energy marketing, and FERC compliance. He has applied his energy, business and regulatory expertise to projects in Indian Country where, among other projects, he permitted a large power plant on tribal trust land. He has represented both companies doing business with tribal nations and tribes and tribally owned businesses. John’s firm currently serves as outside general counsel to a tribal nation in California which provides John with insight to the myriad of issues for tribal businesses and governments. John earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering in 1988 from The University of Tulsa graduating cum laude. He also earned his Juris Doctor degree in 1992 from The University of Tulsa. In law school, John was awarded both the Eastern Mineral Law Foundation and the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation scholarships. He was also one of the first recipients of the University of Tulsa College of Law Indian Law Certificate. John served on the Energy Law Journal as managing editor for ABA publications. John serves as adjunct faculty at the University of Tulsa College of Law in the American Indian and energy law programs including formerly serving as the interim head of The University of Tulsa’s Muscogee Creek Nation Legal Clinic. He has taught in the Master of Jurisprudence program since the program’s inception teaching Principles of Federal Indian Law, Introduction to Federal Legal Administrative Systems, and Basic Oil and Gas Law. John is a member of the Oklahoma Bar Association, the Federal Bar Association, the Pawnee Nation Bar Association and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Bar Association. He is a graduate of Leadership Oklahoma and Leadership Tulsa and has served the community and the University of Tulsa in several leadership roles.

Tyson Winarski

Tyson Winarski is an Intellectual Property Law Professor and Patent Attorney with the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law with Arizona State University. Tyson is also a technologist (BSME, MSEE) and inventor with over 52 patents in Artificial Intelligence (AI), blockchain, renewable energy, graphene optic fibers, nanotechnology, and social networking devices. Various technology companies have purchased or taken a license to Tyson’s patents. Tyson has also co-founded H2Gr0, an AI software start-up company focusing on sustainable fertilizer management for agriculture. At ASU, Tyson teaches courses on Strategic Protection of Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies with Intellectual Property, Patent Law, Patent Licensing and Monetization, IP Licensing, and Appeals to the USPTO Patent Trial and Appeals Board. Tyson is also adjunct faculty on IP Law at the University of San Francisco School of Law.

Tyson serves on the Board of Directors for the Western National Parks Association, non-profit partner of the National Park Service. Tyson also served on the board of directors for the Grand Canyon Conservancy for six years, the official nonprofit partner of the Grand Canyon National Park.

Larry Wright Jr

Larry Wright Jr. is the Executive Director for the National Congress of American Indians. He priorly served as the Director of Leadership Engagement for NCAI. He served as Tribal Chairman of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska for eleven years, and was a member of the Tribal Council for four years prior to that service. During his time as Tribal Chairman, his Tribal Nation saw a period of important growth of their economic development ventures and health care facilities. While in office, Wright also served in the Great Plains Tribal Chairmen’s Association, representing his Tribe. He was also elected to represent the Great Plains Region as the NCAI Area Vice President for the NCAI Executive Committee, which is comprised of Tribal leaders from twelve separate regions across the nation.

Wright is a recognized national Tribal leader and advocate, familiar to many on Capitol Hill as well as many in every corner of Indian Country. He has testified before Congress on four occasions. In addition, Wright served on the Board of Directors of the National Indian Health Board, as Chairman of the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs Board of Directors, and as Chairman of the Nebraska Inter-Tribal Coalition. He also previously served as Co-Chair of the NCAI Taxation Subcommittee and the NCAI Trust Lands, Natural Resources, and Agriculture Subcommittee during his prior service on the Executive Committee of NCAI.

Wright is a military veteran and is dedicated to national advocacy on behalf of Tribal veterans, having served in the United States Army National Guard. He also has a diverse background in education, management, and entrepreneurship. For six years, he served as a Secondary Social Studies teacher in Lincoln Public Schools. He also owned and operated his own general contractor business.

Raised in Nebraska, Wright is the first member of his family elected to the leadership of his Tribal Nation. He graduated from the University of Nebraska at Kearney with a BA in Secondary Social Studies and Political Science, and from the University of Nebraska Wesleyan with an MA in Historical Studies.