

Navajo Nation Law CLE Conference Friday, October 28, 2016

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

Speaker Biographies



Shawn Attakai

Defense Attorney, Gila River Indian Community

Shawn Attakai is an attorney who practices criminal defense in the Gila River Indian Community Courts. He is also licensed in the Arizona, Arizona District Court, and the Navajo Nation courts. Shawn graduated from Dartmouth College with an English literature degree, and from ASU College of Law with an Indian Law Certificate. He's worked with the Navajo Judicial Department and in private practice for more than a decade. He is a military veteran. Shawn is well-versed in his Dine tradition and language. He has been formally studying Navajo culture for almost three decades. Shawn has taught classes as a Dine College Culture Instructor, and as a Phoenix College Tribal Court Advocate Instructor. Mr. Attakai is *Bit'ahnii* (Folded Arm), born for *Tabaaha* (Edgewater), and married to *To'aheedliinii* (Water Flows Together). Together they reside in Phoenix with their children.



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.



Troy A. Eid

Principal Shareholder, Greenberg Traurig, LLP

Troy A. Eid was Colorado's 40th Presidentially appointed United States Attorney from 2006-09 and co-chairs Greenberg Traurig's American Indian Law Practice Group. He represents clients in governmental investigations and enforcement actions under federal, state and tribal law, with emphasis on environmental, energy, natural resource, and public ethics matters. Under President Obama, Troy was appointed and chaired the Indian Law and Order Commission, an independent national board advising the President and Congress on criminal justice and public safety improvements for all 567 federally recognized Native American and Alaska Native tribes and nations, from 2010-14. Many of the Commission's recommendations, including recognition of tribes' inherent criminal jurisdiction over non-Indians in domestic violence cases, have since been enacted into federal law by the Violence Against Women Act Amendments and other reforms. A recipient of the Navajo Nation Bar Association's *Member of the Year Award*, Troy is currently a Commissioner on the Navajo Nation Commission for Judicial Conduct and teaches Native American Tribal Law and Federal Indian Law at both the University of Colorado School of Law and the University of Denver-Sturm College of Law.



Roxann S. Gallagher

Attorney, Sacks Tierney

Roxann Gallagher is an attorney at Sacks Tierney P.A. focusing on business and finance, public finance and Indian law, with an emphasis on economic development. Ms. Gallagher's experience includes a significant number of tax-exempt and taxable bond transactions, commercial loans, as well as certificates of participation, lease-purchases and other financing mechanisms. For more information about Ms. Gallagher and her practice, please visit www.sackstierney.com



David Jordan

Attorney, Law Office of David Jordan

DAVID R. JORDAN is the sole shareholder of *The Law Offices of David R. Jordan, P.C.* in Gallup, New Mexico. He practices in Navajo law, elections law, criminal law, employment law and general civil litigation representing a largely Navajo clientele. He has served as the treasurer and vice-president of the Navajo Nation Bar Association. He has also served as the chair of the NNBA's training and admissions committees.

In his practice, he has been counsel of record for approximately thirty-six reported Navajo Supreme Court opinions, and he has represented hundreds of clients before the Navajo Nation Labor Commission. Jordan has been a member of the State Bar of Arizona since 1991. He is licensed in New Mexico, and he is admitted to practice in the federal bar in both states. He also practices on the Navajo Nation, the Zuni Pueblo, the Hopi Pueblo, the San Felipe Pueblo, and the White Mountain Apache Tribe. He is admitted to practice in the Federal Court of Appeals for the Ninth and Tenth Circuits.

Jordan was raised on the Navajo Nation in Fort Defiance, Arizona, graduating from Window Rock High School in 1984. He presently resides in Gallup, New Mexico with his wife and four daughters.

**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.

Paul Spruhan

Assistant Attorney General, Navajo Department of Justice

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

Robert Yazzie

Chief Justice Emeritus, Navajo Supreme Court

Robert Yazzie is Chief Justice Emeritus of the Navajo Nation, having served in that capacity from 1992 through 2003. He practiced law in the Navajo Nation for 16 years, and was a district judge for eight years. He has a bachelor's degree from Oberlin College of Ohio and a juris doctor degree from the University of New Mexico School of Law.

Yazzie is a member of the Navajo Nation Bar Association and has authored 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.
