

## **Speaker Biographies**

Format: Name, Title, Organization

### **Rodgerick Begay, Assistant Attorney General for the DOJ Chapter Unit**

Rod is Todikozi (Salt Water), born for Biih Bitoodnii (Deer Spring), maternal grandfathers are Kinyaanii (Towering House), and paternal grandfathers are Tsinaajinii (Black Streak Wood People). Born and raised primarily on the Navajo Reservation, Rod continues to reside within the central part of the Navajo Nation. Rod and his wife have four children. He received his undergraduate degree from Arizona State University and his law degree from the University of Tulsa, College of Law. Rod began his legal career with the Navajo Department of Justice and then worked as a Staff Attorney at two courts within the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch before returning back to Navajo DOJ. During his second DOJ tenure, Rod has served as the Assistant Attorney General for three different DOJ Units. Additionally, he was appointed as Deputy Attorney General of the Navajo Nation. Currently, Rod is the Assistant Attorney General for the DOJ Chapter Unit providing legal services primarily for up to 110 Navajo Nation Chapters which are local governments operating within the Navajo tribal government.

### **Rodina Cave Parnall, Pre-Law Summer Institute Director, American Indian Law Center, Inc.**

Rodina Cave Parnall (Quechua) served as Senior Policy Advisor to the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs at the U.S. Department of the Interior. Before that, she practiced law in New Mexico and Arizona representing Indian tribes and tribal entities in legal and administrative proceedings, in environmental matters, and on several large breach-of-trust cases in federal courts. In addition to her Indian law practice, she is experienced in complex litigation and appeals in federal and state courts.

Rodina has been an adjunct professor at the University of New Mexico School of Law and an Associate Judge on the Southwest Intertribal Court of Appeals (SWITCA). She graduated from Arizona State University College of Law with a Certificate in Indian Law and the Outstanding Law Graduate Award. She holds a Bachelor of Business Administration and a Master of Education from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Rodina clerked for the Honorable William C. Canby, Jr. with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

### **Cassandra Church, Legal Counselor, Indigenous Law & Policy Center, Michigan State University College of Law**

Cassandra Church is a citizen of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians and was born and raised in West Michigan. Currently, she is the Legal Counselor at the Indigenous Law and Policy Center at Michigan State University College of Law in East Lansing, where she provides academic support to first-year Native American law students, co-teaches the Indian Law Clinic class and the National Native American Law Students Association Moot Court class, and conducts scholarly research. Prior to receiving her Juris Doctorate from Michigan State University College of Law, she received a master's degree in

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social work from Michigan State University. She is a graduate of the Pre-Law Summer Institute (PLSI) class of 2018 and served as a PLSI Teaching Assistant in the summer of 2019.

**Mary Ann Ferguson, Dean, Michigan State University College of Law, Diversity & Equity Services**

Mary Ann Ferguson, Esq. is the founder of Michigan State University College of Law's (MSU Law/Law College) Diversity and Equity Services Office. Since its inception in 2006, she has served as the inaugural director and later was appointed as the first Assistant Dean of this office. Hence, she became the first member of the Law College's staff who identifies as a Black and African-American Woman to hold a decanal title.

In 2017, she was appointed as the Law College's Title IX Coordinator and served in this role until the Law College's full integration with MSU in August 2020.

Additionally, she was appointed by the President of MSU to serve on his Relationship Violence and Sexual Misconduct Workgroup and Sexual Violence Advisory Committee and noteworthy MSU Executive Search Committees.

Within her multifaceted roles, she seeks to ensure that MSU Law's prospective and current community realizes the Law College's multicultural, equity, diversity, inclusion and access mission. Further, she serves as MSU Law's liaison to the broader MSU campus, academy and legal profession on the importance of increasing and sustaining diversity.

Originating from her pre-secondary education muse, Ferguson is a tireless advocate for 21st Century diversity, legal education and practice access, anti-discrimination laws, multiculturalism equity and eradicating relationship violence & sexual misconduct within diverse communities. With the unwavering goal of giving life to silenced voices, she is internationally known for her mantra "accepting identity, appreciating voice and achieving justice for all."

She has over 30 years of public speaking, leadership and community service on a diversified array of foci areas. In over fifty percent of her past and current leadership positions, she holds the title of inaugural member, founder or first Black/African-American Woman. Currently, she is the facilitator of a national organization. Further, Ferguson is the executive board or committee member of at least six local, state, national and international professional and community organizations. Her student and professional awards span several decades.

Ferguson holds a bachelor's degree, with honors, from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and a Juris Doctor degree from Michigan State University College of Law. She is a licensed attorney.

**Matthew L.M. Fletcher, Director of the Indigenous Law & Policy Center, Michigan State University College of Law**

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Matthew L.M. Fletcher is Professor of Law and Director of the Indigenous Law and Policy Center at Michigan State University. He sits as an appellate judge for several tribes. He is a citizen of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians.

He is the Reporter for the American Law Institute's Restatement of the Law of American Indians. He is author of a treatise on federal Indian law, casebooks on federal Indian law and American Indian tribal law, and volumes on the Indian Civil Rights Act and the Indian Child Welfare Act. Professor Fletcher is the primary editor and author of the leading law blog on American Indian law and policy, Turtle Talk, <http://turtletalk.wordpress.com/>.

Professor Fletcher graduated from the University of Michigan Law School in 1997 and the University of Michigan in 1994. He is married to Wenona Singel, a member of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, and they have two sons, Owen and Emmett.

**Kathryn Fort, Director of Clinics, Indian Law Clinic, Michigan State University College of Law**

Kathryn (Kate) E. Fort is the Director of Clinics at Michigan State University College of Law and runs the Indian Law Clinic, where she teaches the Clinic class and other classes in federal Indian law. In 2015, she started the Indian Child Welfare Act Appellate Project, which represents tribes in complex ICWA litigation across the country. She is the author of *American Indian Children and the Law*, published by Carolina Academic Press. Prof. Fort has written articles on laches and land claims and has researched and written extensively on the Indian Child Welfare Act. Her publications include articles in the *Harvard Public Health Review*, *George Mason Law Review*, *Saint Louis University Law Journal*, and *American Indian Law Review*. She co-edited *Facing the Future: The Indian Child Welfare Act at 30* with Profs. Wenona T. Singel and Matthew L.M. Fletcher (Michigan State University Press 2009). She co-edits the popular and influential Indian law blog, TurtleTalk with Prof. Matthew Fletcher. Prof. Fort is a popular guest lecturer and speaker at conferences, trainings, and law school classes around the country.

Prof. Fort graduated magna cum laude in from Michigan State University College of Law with the Certificate in Indigenous Law and is licensed to practice law in Michigan. She received her B.A. in History with honors from Hollins University in Roanoke, Virginia.

**Joaquin Ray Gallegos, Jicarilla Apache and Santa Ana Pueblo, Judicial Clerk for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit**

Joaquin Ray Gallegos is from the Jicarilla Apache Nation and Pueblo of Santa Ana. He recently served as a law clerk to the Honorable Allison H. Eid on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. Prior, he served as a legislative staff attorney to the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. He has also served as a legal fellow to then-Vice Chairman U.S. Senator Udall (ret.) on the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, supporting policy development and agency oversight, and as a policy fellow to U.S. Senator Dorgan (ret.) at the Aspen Institute, supporting the Obama administration. Before law and policy, Joaquin worked in health care and research across Indian Country including interior Alaska.

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**Debra Gee, Navajo Nation and Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Chief Counsel for the Chickasaw Nation  
Office of Tribal Justice Administration**

Debra Gee currently serves as Chief Counsel for the Chickasaw Nation Office of Tribal Justice Administration located in Ada, Oklahoma. Debra previously worked at the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., the Muscogee (Creek) Nation in Okmulgee, Oklahoma and DNA-People's Legal Services, Inc. in Shiprock, New Mexico. Debra is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation and is also affiliated with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. She is a graduate of the Arizona State University College of Law where she earned her J.D. and Smith College where she earned her B.A. Debra holds bar memberships in the tribal courts of the Chickasaw Nation, Muscogee (Creek) Nation and Navajo Nation and in the states of Oklahoma and New Mexico (inactive).

**Linda Greene, Dean and Michigan State University College of Law Foundation Professor of Law**

Linda Sheryl Greene is Dean and MSU Foundation Professor of Law at Michigan State University College of Law and an elected life member of The American Law Institute. Prior to her June 1st 2021 start date, she was the Evjue Bascom Professor of Law at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she had also served as Associate Vice Chancellor. A graduate of Berkeley Law, she was a civil rights and constitutional law attorney at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, and a Los Angeles Deputy City Attorney who specialized in civil rights and constitutional law. She was also Counsel to the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee. She was President of the Society of American Law Teachers, and Vice Chair of the Counsel on Legal Educational Opportunity. She co-founded the Black Women in Sports Foundation, served the U.S. Olympic Committee as Chair of its Legislation Committee and Vice Chair of its Audit Committee, and was a member of the UW Madison Athletic Board.

**Robert Alan Hershey, Clinical Professor of Law Emeritus, Indigenous Peoples Law & Policy Program, University of Arizona Rogers College of Law**

Robert Alan Hershey has specialized in Indian Affairs for nearly five decades. He is Professor Emeritus at both the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law (Arizona Law) and American Indian Studies. Prior to becoming Professor Emeritus he served as the Founding Director of Clinical Education for the Indigenous Peoples Law & Policy (IPLP) Program at Arizona Law. Professor Hershey received his law degree from Arizona Law in 1972. He then worked as Staff Attorney for the Fort Defiance Agency of Dinebeina Nahilna Be Agaditahe (DNA Legal Services) on the Navajo Indian Reservation. From 1983 to 1999, he served as Special Litigation Counsel and Law Enforcement Legal Advisor to the White Mountain Apache Tribe, and, from 1995 to 1997, as Special Counsel to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. Professor Hershey has also served for over 30 years as Judge Pro Tempore for the Tohono O'odham Judiciary, and he was an Associate Justice for the Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribal Court of Appeals. He has been a member of the White Mountain Apache, Hopi, Pascua Yaqui, and Tohono O'odham Tribal Courts, and is licensed to practice in the U.S. Supreme Court, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, the Federal District Court for the District of Arizona, and the Arizona and Montana State Bars. He has taught American Indian Law at the University of Puerto Rico Escuela de Derechos, the University of Deusto in Bilbao, Spain, and taught, as a Visiting Professor, a version of his Globalization course at the University of Victoria in British Columbia. Over the past twenty-five years he has taught Indian law at the James E. Rogers College of Law. During his time as Director of Clinical Education at IPLP, Professor Hershey

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taught Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy Clinical Education (which promotes and assists the self-determination of Aboriginal communities in the southwestern United States and worldwide). He also taught a Globalization and the Preservation/Transformation of Culture course, and has written extensively on that topic. His book *Globalization and the Transformation of Cultures and Humanity: a Curriculum and Toolkit for the Efflorescence of Ecological Literacy in Legal and Business School Education* can be found at [www.ecoliteratelaw.com](http://www.ecoliteratelaw.com). He has assisted tribes in forming and revising tribal constitutions and codes, and has conducted numerous training workshops for tribal judges and tribal court personnel.

**Lydia Locklear, Lumbee, Deputy Tribal Attorney for the Catawba Nation**

Lydia Locklear is a citizen of the Lumbee Tribe and currently works as the Deputy Tribal Attorney for the Catawba Nation. She earned her Juris Doctorate from Michigan State University College of Law with a Certificate in Indigenous Law from the Indigenous Law and Policy Center. Before joining Catawba, Lydia clerked for the Honorable Anita Earls of the North Carolina Supreme Court. Lydia currently serves on the Pre-Law Summer Institute's Judicial Clerkship Committee, which supports Native Americans in obtaining judicial clerkships. She also serves on the Indigenous Pathways to Law Committee, which supports North Carolina's tribal communities by administering a mentorship program for pre-law students, law students, and attorneys.

**Tehani M. Louis-Perkins, University of Hawai'i**

Tehani M. Louis-Perkins is a third-year law student at the University of Hawai'i William S. Richardson School of Law and holds a Biology and Environmental studies degree from Whitman College. Raised by farmers and fishers, she was naturally drawn to environmental and natural resource management. She has researched the parallels between modern and Native Hawaiian fisheries management throughout law school, the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument's (PMNM) permitting process, and Community Based Subsistence Fisheries Areas (CBSFA). As a Jarman Environmental Law Fellow, she has worked with the NOAA Fisheries Pacific Island Regional Office and the PMNM staff. She also served as a 2021 Summer Law Clerk for the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation and as a Research Associate for the law school's Environmental Law Program. Next fall Tehani will clerk for the Honorable Judge Rowena Somerville in the First Circuit Court of Hawai'i.

**Alexander Mallory, Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, Judicial Clerk, U.S. District Court of Arizona**

Alexander Mallory (Hakikóx Walu Piga—"makes his way") is from the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska. He currently works as an Attorney Advisor through the United States Department of Justice Honors Program. This fall, he will clerk at the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona. He is a graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University. He enjoys traveling and has lived in Istanbul, Prague, and Milan.

**Doreen Nanibaa McPaul, Navajo Nation (Kinyaa'áanii), Attorney General for the Navajo Nation, President of TICA**

Doreen Nanibaa McPaul is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation (Kinyaa'áanii) from Chinle, Arizona. She is a graduate of Princeton University and earned her law degree from Arizona State University College of Law. She is currently the Navajo Nation's 12th Attorney General and in that

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*Approved by Minnesota Board of Continuing Legal Education for 9.75 CLE credits, including 1.25 ethics capacity,* she serves as the Nation's Chief Legal Officer and oversees the Department of Justice. Attorney General McPaul has practiced law for 20 years and, in addition to serving as a tribal attorney since 2008, she has worked as a judicial law clerk, as a tribal court staff attorney, as an associate attorney at a boutique Indian law firm, and as a clinical law professor. McPaul is a founding board member and current president of the Tribal In-House Counsel Association, a national organization that supports tribes in the exercise and protection of their sovereignty by providing informational networking and other support services and programming to tribal government attorneys and federal Indian law practitioners. She also serves on the State Bar of Arizona's Board of Governors and on the Board for the American Indian Law Center. Attorney General McPaul was most recently elected as a member of the American Law Institute. Above all Mrs. McPaul is a proud military spouse and mom. She is married to SFC Mark McPaul (retired) and they have three sons.

**Austin Moore, Samish Indian Nation, Staff Attorney, The Native American Disability Law Center**

Austin Moore is a Staff Attorney at the Native American Disability Law Center in Flagstaff, Arizona. He is a member of the Samish Indian Nation. Since joining the Law Center, Austin has played a key role in the drafting of a New Mexico State Indian Child Welfare Act by referencing other state ICWAs, working with tribal attorneys to develop language that protects the rights of tribes and Native children and families, and advocating for a process that respects the rights of all interested parties. In addition to his work on the New Mexico ICWA, he represents clients with disabilities to ensure that they have access to appropriate, inclusive, community-based services. He holds a J.D. with a Certificate in Indigenous Law from the Michigan State University College of Law and a B.A. in History and Philosophy from Carroll College. He is a member of the Arizona and Navajo Nation bars.

**Bryan Newland, Bay Mills Indian Community (Ojibwe), Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary**

Bryan Newland is a citizen of the Bay Mills Indian Community (Ojibwe), where he recently completed his tenure as Tribal President. Prior to that, Bryan served as Chief Judge of the Bay Mills Tribal Court. From 2009 to 2012, he served as a Counselor and Policy Advisor to the Assistant Secretary of the Interior – Indian Affairs. He is a graduate of Michigan State University and the Michigan State University College of Law. Bryan enjoys hiking and kayaking the shores of Lake Superior, and is a nature photography enthusiast. He currently serves as the Department of the Interior Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs.

**Chrissi Nimmo, Cherokee Nation, Deputy Attorney General for Cherokee Nation**

Chrissi Ross Nimmo is a Cherokee Nation citizen and is the Deputy Attorney General for Cherokee Nation. She has been in-house counsel for the Nation for 13 years. Chrissi is the managing attorney for a staff of 15 attorneys. The Office of the Attorney General is the only legal office of the Nation, meaning it handles in-house duties, tribal prosecution, and civil litigation in tribal, state, and federal courts. Recently, the CNOAG has dealt with a massive increase in tribal prosecution (and many other legal issues) following the McGirt decision; is a party to Brackeen, a Fifth Circuit challenge to ICWA; dealt with COVID legal issues, and has directed multiple gaming lawsuits against the State of Oklahoma.

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Chrissi is the Vice-President of the Tahlequah Public School Board and the President of the Board of Trustees for the Northeastern State University Foundation. Chrissi and her husband Jim, a Tulsa firefighter reside in Tahlequah with their 6 year old twins Mattie and James and 3 year old Emmy.

Chrissi is admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of Cherokee Nation, Supreme Court of Oklahoma, U.S. District Courts for the Eastern, Western and Northern Districts of Oklahoma, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, and United States Supreme Court.

**April Olson, Partner, Rothstein Donatelli LLP**

April Olson has served tribal governments for almost 20 years, first as a social worker and then as an attorney. April is a first-generation college student and the only lawyer in her family. She graduated from the Indian Legal Program at Arizona State University with a Certificate in Indian Law. April is now a partner in the Tempe Office Rothstein Donatelli LLP, a firm that specializes in Indian law, civil rights litigation and criminal defense. April joined the firm in May 2010 after serving as in-house counsel for a tribe for three and a half years. April practices exclusively in the field of federal Indian law and tribal law and her experience includes a wide variety of practice areas including civil litigation, Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) cases, criminal law, employment and labor law, tribal corporations and economic development, taxation and administrative law.

**Joe Sarcinella, Partner, Drummond Woodsum**

Joe represents federally-recognized Native American tribes, their enterprises, and outside businesses and individuals looking to responsibly work in Indian Country. He has worked in Indian Country his entire life starting in tribal youth programming before becoming an attorney. Joe has provided services to tribal governments, enterprises, non-profits, The National Congress of American Indians, trade associations, and oversaw tribal affairs for the Secretary of Defense. His practice focuses on government affairs, legal affairs management, corporate governance and economic development; his true passion is cultural preservation and finding ways to create economic sovereignty while preserving and promoting traditional Native cultures. In 2016, Joe was recognized as the 2016 National Indian Country Advocate of the Year by the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development. Joe's family is of mixed heritage, his mother's family is Lakota/Nakota from a small reserve in Canada; his wife, renowned CEO and political strategist Clara Pratte, and his children are members of the Navajo Nation. He and his family split time between Washington DC, the Navajo Nation, and Flagstaff, AZ.

**Wenona Singel, Associate Director of the Indigenous Law & Policy Center, Associate Professor of Law at the Michigan State University College of Law**

Wenona T. Singel is an Associate Professor of Law at Michigan State University College of Law and the Associate Director of the Indigenous Law & Policy Center. She teaches courses in the fields of federal Indian law and natural resources law, and her research and publications address the development of tribal legal systems and tribal accountability for human rights.

She served as Deputy Legal Counsel for the office of Governor Gretchen Whitmer from January of 2019 through January of 2021, advising Governor Whitmer on tribal-state affairs. Professor Singel, an enrolled

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member of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, was the first tribal citizen in Michigan's history to hold that position. Her other professional activities have included serving as the Chief Appellate Justice for the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians and service as the Chief Appellate Judge for the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. From 2006-2009, she served as President and Board Member of the Michigan Indian Judicial Association. On March 29, 2012, the United States Senate passed by unanimous consent President Barack Obama's nomination of her to serve as a member of the Advisory Board of the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, a position she held until 2017. Ms. Singel is also an elected member of the American Law Institute, where she is the Co-Reporter for the project to develop a Restatement of the Law of American Indians.

Prior to joining MSU College of Law, Ms. Singel was an Assistant Professor at the University of North Dakota School of Law and a Fellow with the Northern Plains Indian Law Center. Before teaching, she worked in private practice with firms that included Kanji & Katzen, P.L.L.C. in Ann Arbor, MI, and Dickinson Wright in Bloomfield Hills, MI. She served as a member of the Economic Development Commission of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians and as General Counsel for the Grand Traverse Resort, a tribally-owned resort in northern Michigan. Ms. Singel received an A.B. from Harvard College and a J.D. from Harvard Law School.

**Rob Roy Smith, Partner, Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP**

Rob Roy Smith is a Partner for the firm's Seattle office and co-team leader of the Firm's Native American Practice Group. Mr. Smith exclusively practices federal Indian law. He advises Indian tribal clients on all aspects of federal, state and tribal law, including tribal sovereignty, economic development, natural and cultural resource protection, taxation, and gaming. Mr. Smith is dedicated to helping Indian tribal governments achieve their goals. Whether as general counsel or special litigation counsel, Mr. Smith consistently finds the best legal and business solutions to benefit tribal communities.

**Paul Spruhan, Assistant Attorney General, Navajo Nation DOJ**

Paul Spruhan is Assistant Attorney General of the Litigation Unit at the Navajo Nation Department of Justice in Window Rock, Arizona. In that capacity, he litigates civil cases in federal, Navajo Nation, and state courts on a wide range of issues, including tribal sovereignty, environmental regulation, and labor and employment. He currently represents the Nation in *Hopi Tribe v. Trump*, concerning the validity of the reduction of Bears Ears National Monument, and *Brackeen v. Haaland*, concerning the constitutionality of the Indian Child Welfare Act. 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 has taught Indian law topics for Arizona State, Montana, New Mexico, and Tulsa Law Schools as well as Navajo Technical University. He has published law review articles in the *American Indian Law Journal*, *Tribal Law Journal*, the *North Dakota*, *South Dakota*, and *Tulsa Law Review*, as well as the *Rutgers Race and the Law Review*. He and his wife, Bidtah Becker, have two children and live in Fort Defiance on the Navajo Nation.

**Geoff Strommer, Partner, Hobbs, Straus, Dean & Walker, LLP**



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Geoff Strommer joined Hobbs Straus in 1992 and is the managing partner of the Portland, Oregon, office. Geoff works with tribes on a wide range of issues, primarily self-determination and self-governance. Geoff is nationally recognized for his knowledge of and experience working with the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA). An active participant in the ISDEAA's developments and implementation since 1992, Geoff worked on efforts to draft and lobby for amendments to various titles of the ISDEAA. He was involved with the development of regulations to implement Titles IV and V of the Act. He was deeply involved in the legislative and regulatory effort that resulted in the expansion of Self-governance at DOT. He was also on the tribal team that successfully lobbied for the enactment of the PROGRSS Act, a bill that significantly amends Title IV. His ISDEAA work also includes negotiating contracts, compacts, and funding agreements with the BIA, the IHS, and other federal agencies. He served as lead counsel for dozens of the firm's tribal clients bringing contract support cost claims against the federal government under the ISDEAA. He was also lead counsel in two cases that established the right of tribal contractors to enter into fully-funded facilities leases under the ISDEAA, *Maniilaq Association v. Burwell*, 72 F. Supp. 3d 227 (D.D.C. 2014) (*Maniilaq I*), and *Maniilaq Association v. Burwell*, No. 1:15-cv-00152, 2016 WL 1118256 (D.D.C. Mar. 22, 2016) (*Maniilaq II*). He has also co-authored a number of articles on Indian law issues, including *The History, Status, and Future of Tribal Self-Governance Under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act*, 39 *American Indian Law Review* 1-75 (2015).

**Ian F. Tapu, Law Clerk, Hawaii State Judiciary**

Tapu received his A.B. from Dartmouth College in Native American Studies with a minor in Public Policy and Education. He then received his J.D. from the University of Hawai'i William S. Richardson School of Law with a certificate in Native Hawaiian Law. His scholarly work which focuses on Indigenous rights, territorial law, LGBTQ rights, and Constitutional law, have been featured in such publications as the *Arizona Law Review*, *N.Y.U. Review of Law and Social Change*, and the *Dukeminier Awards Journal of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity*. He is currently the law clerk for the Honorable James H. Ashford in Hawaii Circuit Court and will be starting in the fall as the law clerk for Chief Justice Recktenwald of the Hawai'i Supreme Court.

**Meghan "Sigvanna" Topkok, Iñupiaq, Staff Attorney for Kawerak, Inc.**

Meghan "Sigvanna" Topkok is Iñupiaq from Nome, Alaska, with family roots in Mary's Igloo and Qawiaraq. She currently serves as the Staff Attorney at Kawerak, Inc., a tribal consortia, providing legal services to 19 tribes in the Bering Strait region. She is also an adjunct for the University of Alaska Fairbanks teaching courses on the Inupiaq language, tribal governance, and Alaska Native history. In her free time she enjoys qayaqing and camping with her partner and their two dogs.

**Roshanna Toya, Pueblo of Isleta, Judicial Clerk for the New Mexico Court of Appeals**

Roshanna K. Toya is an enrolled member of the Pueblo of Isleta in New Mexico. She earned her Juris Doctorate from the University of New Mexico School of Law in 2019. There she received the clinical honors award for her work in the Southwest Indian Law Clinic, the Dean's Award for significant contribution to the law school community, and served as Co-Editor in Chief of the *Tribal Law Journal*. Roshanna also holds graduate degrees in social work and criminal justice. Since graduating from law

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*18th Annual Indigenous Law Conference*

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school she has served as a judicial law clerk for the New Mexico Court of Appeals. As a law clerk she conducts legal research and drafts legal opinions on complex questions in all areas of criminal and civil law. Roshanna has also served her tribal community as an associate justice for the Pueblo's Appellate Court for the past eight years.