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A Message from the Chair

Greetings!



Time goes on, not quite marching, but moving as it does. I attended the Tribal Law Journal’s symposium at the UNMSOL on March 27 and it was invigorating to see students creating an audience for tribal justice and peacemaking forums and other concurrent court systems. Old and new ideas, old and new practitioners of Indian law. It was

20 years ago that I was president of NALSA at the University of North Dakota. Now it’s time for me as Chair of the Indian Law Section to rally all those of us, young and old, practicing a little, practicing a lot, to come together. As section members we learn through shared resources and CLE’s, we socialize and we can mentor others. Please check out our refreshed website with useful links and information. Please join us at our upcoming events! And finally, please spread the word that it is never too late to join us-membership is only \$20 a year and we welcome you to grow and give to the field of Indian law in New Mexico.

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Meet the 2019 Indian Law Section Board



Kathryn S. Becker | *Chair*

Kathryn has practiced law for the New Mexico Environment Department since 2005. Her clients run the gamut of environmental media, including OHSA. Her practice generally comprises one of three aspects of administrative law: permitting, enforcement or rulemaking. As Tribal Liaison, Ms. Becker aids the Secretary of the Department in government-to-government communications and consultations. Prior to joining the Department, Kathryn worked as legal counsel to the State Parks Division of the NM Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department. Previously Kathryn worked as a lawyer for the Navajo Nation Department of Justice in Tuba City, Arizona. Kathryn is a member of the New Mexico State Bar and Navajo Nation Bar Association. She is admitted to practice in the State of New Mexico, the United States District Court for the District of New Mexico and the Navajo Nation. She received her Juris Doctorate in 2000 from the University of North Dakota School of Law.



Josett D. Monette | *Past Chair*

Josett Monette is an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa where she was born and lived most of her life. She currently works as an Associate General Counsel for the Pueblo of Isleta, working on a variety of tribal government issues. Previously, Josett worked with the New Mexico Legal Aid Native American Program at the Santa Ana Office representing clients in many of the Pueblo Courts throughout New Mexico, focusing mostly on due process issues. In 2012, Josett attended the Pre-Law Summer Institute and graduated in 2015 from the University of New Mexico School of Law along with earning an Indian Law Certificate. Josett also has a B.A. in Indian Studies, B.Ed. in Secondary Education – Social Services, and M.Ed. all from the University of North Dakota. She worked in education on her reservation, as a teacher and an English Language Learner Coordinator before attending Law School.



Justin J. Solimon | *Chair-Elect*

Justin Solimon is a partner at Barnhouse Keegan Solimon & West LLP. He represents American Indian tribes and tribally owned entities throughout the United States in matters including taxation, gaming, employment, governance, liability defense, and the protection and development of tribal sovereignty. Justin has tried cases in magistrate, state, and federal courts, and has served as appellate counsel in both state and federal courts of appeal. He obtained his JD from the UNM School of Law in 2006, where he has also served as an adjunct professor. Prior to attending law school, Justin taught and coached at the Santa Fe Indian School. In addition to the Indian Law Section of the State Bar of New Mexico, Justin serves on the Governance Council for the Native American Community Academy, a public charter school dedicated to serving the educational needs of Native American students. Justin is a member of the Pueblo of Laguna.



James Burson | *Budget Officer*

James Burson works for Pueblo of Laguna as In-House Attorney in the Government Affairs Office, obtained J.D. from UNM School of Law in 1999 with certificates in Indian and Natural Resources Law, over 15 years representing tribes, tribal organizations, and tribal businesses located in New Mexico and Oklahoma.



Nadine Padilla | *Secretary*

Nadine Padilla is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation. Nadine currently serves as the Deputy Secretary for the Indian Affairs Department for the State of New Mexico. Prior to joining the Department, Nadine practiced environmental law. Nadine is a graduate of the UNM School of Law and graduated with a certificate in Natural Resources and Environmental Law.



Tracy Goodluck

Tracy Canard Goodluck is an enrolled member of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin and is also Mvskoke Creek. Currently, she is the Deputy Director of the Department of Interior's Secretary's Indian Water Rights Office (SIWRO). There, Tracy manages the Washington, D.C. office and works alongside her colleagues to manage 44 assessment, negotiation and implementation teams in the field. Previously, Tracy worked as an Attorney-Advisor for the Department's Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs and managed the legislative portfolio for Indian Affairs issues. Tracy recently completed her time as a Presidential Management Fellow (PMF) where she was appointed to a two-year term with DOI and received training and rotational opportunities in other federal offices. Tracy graduated with her J.D. and Certificate in Indian Law from the University of New Mexico School of Law in 2014. Tracy also holds an A.B. from Dartmouth College, a M.I.T (Teaching) from the University of Washington and an Ed. Specialist degree in Educational Leadership from UNM. She is a co-founder of the Native American Community Academy in Albuquerque.



Jannette Mondragón

Jannette Mondragón is a board member of the Indian Law Section. Jannette is an enrolled member of the Chickasaw Nation and was born and raised in El Paso, Texas. She attended the Pre-Law Summer Institute at UNMSOL in the summer of 2015 and then attended UNMSOL, graduating in 2017. After graduating, Jannette accepted a position as an Assistant District Attorney at the 13th Judicial Attorney's Office in Sandoval County, where she currently works.



Tom Peckham

Tom fell in love with Indian law soon after the Honorable Diana Murphy of the Eighth Circuit, for whom he was clerking, called him into her office one day in 1995 and said, “I think you should work on this opinion. I think you’ll really like Indian law.” Following that clerkship and after two years in Dorsey & Whitney’s Indian Law group in Minneapolis, Tom joined the Nordhaus Law Firm in Albuquerque in 1998, becoming a partner in 2002. His work covers a broad range of matters for the firm’s tribal clients, including tribal sovereignty and jurisdiction, the United States’ trust obligations to tribes, taxation, the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, the Indian Self-Determination Act, tribal immunity, oil and gas, equal protection in the tribal context, the National Indian Forest Management Act, and many others. He has litigated in federal, state, and tribal courts.

He has assisted tribal clients in developing tribal constitution and code provisions, in developing and enforcing regulations, and in long-range economic planning and development. He has provided issue-specific support for congressional legislative efforts. Tom has done extensive work for tribes on land issues, including the restoration of lands into trust, utility easements and permits, rights-of-ways, trespass. His efforts have led to the formal restoration of more than 150,000 acres to trust status. He also has worked on historical land issues, including trespass, reservation boundaries and surveys, and tribal land cessions. Tom has worked closely with tribal gaming commissions on the effective regulation of tribal gaming. He has advised tribes and tribal agencies on employment matters and assisted in revising employment policies and practices.



Neoshia R. Roemer

Neoshia R. Roemer is currently the Fellow at the Indigenous Law & Policy Center at Michigan State University College of Law, conducting policy and advocacy work and scholarship on the Indian Child Welfare Act, supervising in the Indian Law Clinic, coaching Michigan State’s NNALSA Moot Court Competition team, and promoting the recruitment and retention of Native American students in the study of law. Neoshia is also an Adjunct Professor at the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College where she teaches courses on the Violence against Women Act and the Indian Child Welfare Act. Neoshia received her Bachelor of Arts in History from Indiana University in 2013, her Master of Arts in Latin American Studies from the University of New Mexico in 2017, and her J.D. from the University of New Mexico School of Law in 2017.



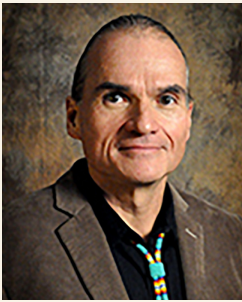
Aaron Sims

Aaron, a member of the Pueblo of Acoma, joined the Chestnut Law Offices, P.A. in 2014 shortly after graduating from the University of New Mexico School of Law. Aaron is primarily involved in cultural resource protection of tribal clients, but works on a wide variety of tribal governmental, economic development, and natural resource matters. In 2009, Aaron graduated from Dartmouth College before returning to New Mexico to work with the Leadership Institute at the Santa Fe Indian School on a variety of related tribal policy and community development issues.



Amber Holland | *UNM Student Liaison*

Amber is a member of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina pursuing a Juris Doctor and Indian Law certificate at The University of New Mexico School of Law. Amber has worked with the United States District Court for the Honorable James O. Browning, the Indian Law Resource Center in Washington, DC, and the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs. She earned a Master of Arts and Bachelor of Arts at The University of North Carolina at Pembroke in social studies education. Amber is a former teacher and Miss Indian North Carolina titleholder. She is pursuing a career in Indian law concentrating on cultural preservation.



John P. LaVelle | *UNM School of Law Liaison*

John P. LaVelle is an enrolled member of the Santee Sioux Nation and a Professor of Law and Regents' Lecturer at the University of New Mexico School of Law. He currently serves as Director of the UNM Law and Indigenous Peoples Program. He received his college degree from Harvard University and his law degree from the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law. Professor LaVelle served on the executive editorial board for the 2005 and 2012 editions of *Cohen's Handbook of Federal Indian Law*, the comprehensive treatise in the field of Indian law. He chaired the Association of American Law Schools Section on Indian Nations and Indigenous Peoples during 2018-2019. Professor LaVelle also is an Associate Justice of the Santee Sioux Nation Supreme Court, his tribe's highest judicial tribunal. He resides in Albuquerque with his husband Monte Deer Carden, an artist, actor, and enrolled citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.



Alyssa Mercado | *Young Lawyer's Division Liaison*

Alyssa Mercado is the Young Lawyers Division Liaison to the Indian Law Section and graduated from the University of New Mexico in the fall of 2018 with her Indian Law Certificate. After graduation, Alyssa joined the Medical-Legal Partnership with New Mexico Legal Aid Native American Program. She primarily practices in the areas of housing, public benefits, and family law for Albuquerque's urban indigenous communities. Alyssa is admitted to practice in New Mexico and the tribal courts of Pueblo of Zuni, Pueblo of Laguna, and Pueblo of Isleta.

A Word From Our Committees

CLE Committee



The Indian Law Section's Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Committee plans and participates in CLEs designed to be of interest to Indian Section members and the State Bar members, generally. In 2019, the CLE Committee organized a panel on the Yazzie/Martinez v. State – Education Reform in New Mexico, and it was presented at the Annual Diversity and Inclusion CLE on April 12, 2019. The panel included: Anpao Duta Flying Earth, Native American Community Academy; Kara Bobroff, State of New Mexico Public Education Department; Preston Sanchez, New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty.

On November 7, 2019, the CLE Committee will host its Annual CLE. This year, the Committee is hoping to provide a full day CLE, including one Ethics Credit. Topics we have discussed for potential presentation include 2019 Indian Law Update, Indian Water Law, Indian Child Welfare Act, and Sports Betting; stay tuned for an announcement on the Topics and Speakers. For any questions about the scheduled CLEs or to offer suggestions for topics or speakers, please contact poi09101@isletapueblo.com.

Media Committee



Once again, the Indian Law Section's Media Committee is producing the Indian Law Times newsletter this year. Please contact us if you have an article, event, or an announcement that you wish to share with the Indian Law Section. Please visit: <https://www.nmbar.org/indianlaw> for more information, or contact the New Mexico State Bar for assistance in contacting the Indian Law Section Board. The Media Committee will also be working with the Outreach Committee in hosting the Attorney Achievement Award again this fall.

Outreach & Recruiting Committee



The Outreach and Recruiting Committee plans and coordinates section mixers and the Fall mentorship program in coordination with the Young Lawyers Division. We have worked with the YLD to incorporate ILS members, who may not be YLD members, to serve as mentors to UNM SOL students who are interested in practicing Indian Law. The Committee hopes to get more section participation through mixers/ events and continuing the mentorship program. If you would like to be part of the Fall YLD mentorship program, please contact a member of the Board, we would be happy to connect you with a UNMSOL student this fall! On April 10th, we had a great event at Bow & Arrow

Brewery in conjunction with NNALSA/UNM NALSA. In total, about 37 attorneys and students attended! As part of our mixer, we encouraged attendees to donate to the NM Roadrunner Foodbank by canned good or cash donation. In exchange, ILS would buy the donor a beer! In total, we donated about 52 pounds of food, and about \$121 dollars (<https://roadrunner-food-bank.snwbll.com/thermometers/state-bar-of-new-mexico-indian-law-section>). That equals to well over 600 meals that NM Roadrunner Foodbank can deliver with our contributions! Great job everyone!! Thank you to everyone who attended, who helped set up, and who helped man the table. Special thanks to Josett Monette for taking our canned donation to the Foodbank the next day.

We are hoping to host another Mixer in the Summer – keep your eyes open for updates! If you have any events that you would like the invite ILS membership to attend, please contact the board and we would be happy to distribute event invitations or consider co-sponsorship.

Scholarship Committee



This year, the Committee partnered with UNM NALSA to honor its 2019 scholarship recipients at the annual Native American graduation event. After evaluating many qualified applicants, the Committee honored five students this year. All scholarship recipients demonstrated their passion in Indian Law and their commitment to serving tribal communities.

Additionally, the Scholarship Committee announces the establishment of the Karl E. Johnson Indian Law Scholarship. Mr. Johnson passed away suddenly this June. The Karl E. Johnson Indian Law Scholarship is established in honor of Mr. Johnson's many contributions to Indian Law. Mr. Johnson was Of Counsel at Barnhouse Keegan Solimon & West, LLP, where he was the managing partner from 2003-2017. Throughout his accomplished career, Mr. Johnson was committed to serving tribes in his practice of commercial, construction, real estate, water

rights, taxation and environmental matters. Donations to the Karl E. Johnson Indian Law Scholarship can be made online at <https://form.jotform.com/sbnm/karl-johnson-indian-law-scholarship>.

Applications for 2020 ILS Bar Prep Scholarships will be posted in early 2020. The Committee is currently soliciting donations to go towards providing scholarships to assist new graduates with the costs associated with taking the bar exam. Donations can be made via the Indian Law Section website www.nmbar.org/indianlaw or by check made payable to the "New Mexico Bar Foundation" indicating "Indian Law Section Bar Prep Scholarship" on the memo line. Checks should be mailed to: New Mexico State Bar, Attn: Stephanie Wagner, P.O. Box 92860, Albuquerque, NM 87199-2860. All donations are tax deductible.

Attorney Achievement Award



The Indian Law Section has opened nominations for its annual Attorney Achievement Award. The Attorney Achievement Award gives the Section an opportunity to recognize the amazing accomplishments of our members. Our Section includes some of the foremost Indian law practitioners in the country who have made important contributions to our profession and to our communities. The nominee for the Attorney Achievement Award must be a member of the Indian Law Section and the nomination must explain, in one page or less, the nature of the nominee's extraordinary achievements in Indian law and the nominee's contributions to the community.

The deadline for nominations is September 30.

The Attorney Achievement Award will be presented at an ILS event shortly thereafter.

Send nominations to Stephanie Wagner at swagner@nmbar.org.

Visit www.nmbar.org/IndianLaw to view a roster of Section members.