

SPOKANE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION FOURTEENTH ANNUAL INDIAN LAW CONFERENCE

Hosts: Spokane County Bar Association Indian Law Section
and Gonzaga University School of Law

Friday, March 10, 2023

- Welcome Tim McLaughlin, Chair, Indian Law Section & Trustee, Spokane County Bar Assn.
Jacob Rooksby, Dean, Gonzaga University School of Law
- 8:30 am *Opening Prayer & Welcome Song* – Empero Corral
- 8:45 - 10:15 am **ICWA & *Brackeen v. Haaland*: A Legal, Tribal, and State Examination**
- **Sheldon Spotted Elk**, Director, Tribal Justice Partnerships Program, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
 - **Tleena Ives**, Director, Tribal Relations, Washington State Department of Children, Youth, & Families
 - **Neoshia Roemer**, Assistant Professor, University of Idaho College of Law
- 10:15 - 10:30 am Break
- 10:30 - 12:00 pm **Washington State & Federal Legislative Update**
- **Brie Jones**, Partner & Chief Diversity Officer, Miller Nash LLP
 - **Josh Clause**, Principal, Clause Law PLLC
 - **Michelle Gladstone-Wade**, Tribal Liaison, Washington State Department of Commerce
- 12:00 – 1:30 pm Lunch – Herak Club Room, McCarthy Athletic Center (next to Gonzaga Law School)
- Keynote Address** – **Hon. Lauren King**, Judge, U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington
Introduced by Juliana Repp, SCBA ILS CLE Committee
- 1:30 – 3:00 pm **Tribal, State, and Local Water Rights and Responsibilities**
- **Mel Tonasket**, former Chairman, Colville Confed. Tribes & President, NCAI
 - **Gene Joseph**, former Member, Tribal Council, Colville Confed. Tribes
 - **Michael Whipple**, Managing Partner, Whipple Law Group
- 3:00 -3:15 pm Break
- 3:15 -4:15 pm **Elimination of Bias: Imposter Syndrome and Challenges of Working for Your Own Community**
- **Hon. Paulette Jordan**, Global Futurist & President, Sovereign Reign LLC
 - **Rhylee Marchand**, Attorney, Tulalip Tribes
- 4:15 pm *Closing Remarks and Adjourn*; SCBA ILS Annual Meeting

Washington State Bar Assn. 6.50 CLE credits approval pending, including 1.0 ethics credits

To register, please visit <https://www.spokanebar.org/events-calendar/>.
Registration is \$150; tax-deductible donations may be made to the SCBA ILS bar scholarship.

SPEAKER BIOS



Sheldon Spotted Elk joined the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) as program director, tribal justice partnerships. He has extensive expertise and regularly speaks on tribal law, child welfare, and juvenile law. His area of focus also includes cultural humility and ethics in children's representation.

Before joining the NCJFCJ, Spotted Elk worked as a director of Indian Child Welfare for Casey Family Programs, under the Intergovernmental Personnel Act placed within the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Tribal Justice Support. He also has worked as a guardian ad litem and parents' representative in juvenile and family matters in tribal court. He currently serves as a judge on the Ute Indian Court of Appeals. He has taught family law in Indian Country as an adjunct professor and has guest lectured at multiple law schools.

Spotted Elk has published a law journal article on tribal constitutional reform, creating a legal framework that approximates tribal community and cultural values. He has authored additional articles on the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA).

Spotted Elk was recognized as a National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAIED) 40 Under 40 recipient, a prestigious award which recognizes 40 emerging American Indian leaders from across Indian Country.

He is a graduate of the School of Law at The University of New Mexico and received a Certificate in Federal Indian Law. He completed his undergraduate degree from The University of Utah College of Social Work. And he and his two sons are members of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe.



Tleena Ives carries the ancestral names of Kwewatanat and Ha"ha"Mu and is an enrolled member of the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe. She worked for her people as the Together for Children Project Manager and now serves many tribes in Washington State as the Tribal Liaison for the Department of Early Learning. She has diverse work experience, serving in education, health, fitness and cultural instruction. She has also spent time working within her tribe in the fields of curriculum development, tribal law, social work and parent advocacy. Tleena is the author of ta"wwYsna", "Star" a S'Klallam children's book expressing the wishes and dreams for our children through an environmental health perspective.

In her spare time, she trains for Ironman Triathlons, works part-time for the Seahawks, and finds joy in witnessing her four children grow into the dreamers and leaders of her tribe's future.

Tleena Ives earned her bachelor's degree in Indigenous Education from The Evergreen State College in Olympia, WA. She is also a recipient of the 2016 "Woman of Achievement" award from the YWCA Kitsap County.



Neoshia R. Roemer is an Assistant Professor at the University of Idaho College of Law where she teaches courses in family law and Native American law. Prior to teaching at Idaho, Neoshia worked as the Fellow and, later, Staff Attorney for the Indigenous Law & Policy Center at the Michigan State University College of Law. Neoshia is a 2017 graduate of the University of New Mexico School of Law where she also earned a Law & Indigenous Peoples Certificate, served as a member of the Tribal Law Journal board, and held various other positions. Neoshia also holds a Master of Arts in Latin American Studies from the University of New Mexico and a Bachelor of Arts in history and international studies from Indiana University at Indianapolis. When not engaged in her legal scholarship, Neoshia is an avid lover of sci-fi/fantasy and crime dramas, Pilates, and spending time with her two dogs.

Professor Roemer's Research/Focus Areas are intimate partner violence, child welfare, Indian Child Welfare Act, Indian law, family appellate advocacy, jurisdictional concerns in family law, multidisciplinary collaborative processes as an alternative to adjudicative processes in family and child welfare law, children's rights, LGBTQ law, disability law, and inclusive teaching methods.



Brie Coyle Jones is the co-leader of the tribal team for Miller Nash, LLP, providing counsel to tribal governments and tribal enterprises on gaming, tax, liquor, cannabis, real estate, construction, and other economic development matters. Brie counsels tribes, tribal enterprises, and lenders in tribal-related financing projects for infrastructure improvements, gaming facilities, and resort properties. She understands the complex and unique intricacies of tribes' unique sovereign status and jurisdictional issues associated with tribal lands. Brie also regularly advises non-tribal entities in their commercial transactions with tribes and tribal enterprises. Brie is a registered lobbyist in Washington State.

Brie also serves as the firm's Chief Diversity Officer (CDO). As CDO, Brie provides thoughtful leadership to firm management to ensure that the firm stays at the forefront of advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in the legal profession and beyond. She collaborates with the firm's Diversity & Inclusion Committee to develop and advance DEI initiatives, including spearheading the firm's billable-hour credit, women & minority business enterprise program, and establishing an annual diverse attorney retreat. Brie is a persuasive advocate, ensuring that diverse voices are heard and considered throughout the decision-making process. Brie currently serves on Miller Nash's Executive Committee and is an active member of the firm's Diversity & Inclusion Committee.

Brie is a descendant of the Quileute Nation.



Josh Clause uses his expertise in federal Indian law and policy to assist tribal nations and their economic enterprises to achieve their objectives. He advocates for his clients before federal and tribal courts, on Capitol Hill with Congress, and across federal agencies. Clause is a veteran of numerous high-stakes fights on behalf of his clients and leverages his knowledge of the law and federal policy to advance their agendas.

Clause developed his skill set and expertise at some of the most prestigious firms in Washington, D.C. Before launching Clause Law, he was a partner at Sixkiller Consulting, where he helped the firm create a nationally-ranked tribal practice. He focused his practice on creating and implementing successful federal strategies, securing federal funding for projects, and ensuring that his clients had a voice in the nation's capital.

He spent several years at Dentons US, LLP, a premier global law firm, where he was a managing associate in the Native American Law & Policy Practice. His practice focused on tribal land acquisitions, economic development, and gaming. Clause successfully represented the tribal nation involved in the very first Carcieri-related fee-to-trust acquisition by the Department of the Interior and defended that acquisition in subsequent litigation.

Clause launched his career in D.C. as an associate at Patton Boggs, LLP, where his practice spanned from Indian law and government contracting to government investigations and federal advocacy. He represented several companies subject to high-profile government investigations and offered strategic advice and counsel on how to resolve these complex situations.

Clause served two terms as president of the Native American Bar Association of DC, an organization dedicated to the educational and professional advancement of Indian law and policy professionals living in Washington, DC. During law school, he was elected president of the National Native American Law Student Association. He is a citizen of the Mohawk Nation enrolled at Six Nations of the Grand River Territory in Ohsweken, Ontario, Canada.



Michelle Gladstone-Wade joined the Washington State Department of Commerce in February 2022 and is honored to serve as the Tribal Liaison and lead Commerce's efforts to develop and maintain positive government to government relationships with our Tribal partners. She comes to Commerce via the Washington State Department of Revenue and before coming to state service, Michelle spent 10 years working in the Tribal College setting in student services, foundation management, and as faculty. Her experience spans the areas of Tribal economic development, Tribal governance, business administration, and Indigenous research. Michelle earned her BA from Dartmouth College in 2008, continued on to earn an MBA and a MS in Leadership in 2013. Currently, she is working on a PhD with Te Whare Wanga o Awanui rangi, located in Whatat ne, New Zealand with a focus on the intersection of culture, language, and organizational development in Tribal economic development. Michelle comes from a Coast Salish family from the Suquamish Tribe and the Shxwha:y Village.



Honorable Lauren J. King is the first Native American federal judge in Washington State's history, the second in the United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit, and only the third active Native American federal judge in the entire United States. Judge King is a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation located in Oklahoma. Judge King was born in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and received her Juris Doctor in 2008 from the University of Virginia School of Law, where she was editor-in-chief of the Virginia Journal of Law and Technology. She received her Bachelor of Arts, with distinction, from the University of Washington in 2004. Judge King was an associate at K&L Gates LLP (formerly Preston Gates & Ellis LLP) from 2008 to 2009 and Byrnes Keller Cromwell LLP from 2010 to 2012. She was a partner at Foster Garvey, P.C. (formerly Foster Pepper PLLC) in Seattle, where she practiced from 2012 until being sworn as a federal judge. She chaired the firm's Native American practice group. Judge King also served on the firm's Executive Committee in 2017 and 2019 and on the Compensation Committee in 2018 and 2019. Judge King served as a Pro Tem appellate judge for the Northwest Intertribal Court System from 2013 to 2021. She served on the board of the Northwest Tribal Court Judges Association from 2015 to 2021. Judge King was also a member of the Mvskoke Reservation Protection Commission from 2020 to 2021 and served as a board member of the Seattle Indian Health Board from 2017 to 2019. In 2020, Governor Jay Inslee appointed her as a Commissioner on the Washington State Gambling Commission, where she served until the expiration of her term in 2021. Judge King also taught Federal Indian Law as an adjunct professor at Seattle University School

of Law.



Michael D. Whipple founded the Whipple Law Group, PLLC with the idea of helping people solve problems through the development of innovative solutions.

Having acquired a wide range of educational and professional experiences over time, Mr. Whipple brings a unique array of qualities and hard-won expertise to the table that he utilizes to effectively serve his clients.

Mr. Whipple received his Bachelors Degree in Geography from the University of Delaware, a Masters Degree Summa Cum Laude in Historic Preservation from the Savannah College of Art & Design, a Masters Degree Cum Laude in Regional and Urban Planning from Virginia (Tech) Polytechnic and State University and his Juris Doctorate from Gonzaga University School of Law. He is admitted to practice in U.S. Federal District Court, Eastern District of Washington, District of Idaho, and Washington and Idaho State Courts. He is a current member of the Washington State, Idaho State and Spokane County Bar Associations. He is also a proud, participating member of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys.

Gene Joseph served as Colville Business Council for multiple terms from 1983-2010. Prior to being on tribal council, Gene Joseph worked in the Colville Tribal Reservation Attorney's Office working on PL 280 for Retrocession and worked on Tribal Water Rights issues.



Mel Tonasket has served as the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Colville Business Council, the governing body of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Indian Reservation, located in north central Washington state. Mr. Tonasket has served as an elected official for the Colville Tribes at various times since 1970 and has served as the Colville Tribes' Chairman and other leadership positions during his years serving as an elected official. From 1973-1976, Mr. Tonasket served as President of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI). Mr. Tonasket led the Colville Tribes' fight against termination and as President of NCAI mobilized national support for major tribal legislation, including the Indian Health Care Improvement Act and the Indian Child Welfare Act. He was a member of the American

Indian Policy Review Commission for two years and has represented United States tribal governments at the World Council of Indigenous Peoples and at the Inter-American Indigenous Conference in Brazil.

Former Idaho Representative, Paulette Jordan is a citizen of the sovereign Coeur d'Alene Tribe, stemming from a long line of hereditary chiefs of the Pacific Northwest, Paulette Jordan was raised to fight for the needs of her community and to protect the earth's priceless natural resources. She was a founding member of the Democratic National Committee's Council on the Environment and Climate Crisis, served on the Executive Board, is the former Vice-Chair of the DNC's Native American Caucus and is currently serving her third-term as Secretary of the National Indian Gaming Association.

Paulette has served on her Coeur d'Alene Tribal Council, and later transitioned to broaden her leadership to the Idaho State Legislature, having served two terms, representing Idaho through the National Conference of State Legislatures as Chair of the Native American Energy and Transportation Committee, the Idaho State Economic Outlook and Revenue Assessment Committee, Idaho House Environment, Energy and Technology Committee, Idaho Resources and Conservation Committee and the State Committee.

In 2018, Paulette ran for Idaho Governor, making history as the first Native American in the U.S. to be nominated by a major party for Governor. In 2020, Paulette answered the call to run for US Senate, making history once again as the first Native American in the US and first woman in Idaho to win a major party nomination. In 2021, Paulette shifted to her personal developments, focusing on her private corporations having developed a pathway for the future of fintech, global digital currency, while building a movement regarding the rights of nature.

Paulette is a graduate of the University of Washington with Executive Certification from the University of Idaho College of Business and Economics and Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Governance.

She currently operates her private corporations as a futurist and evolutionary global leader. These developments include blockchain-digital securities, health, and clean energy transportation.



Rhylee Marchand is an attorney representing the Tulalip Tribes. She is a Colville Tribal member, specifically the Lakes, Moses-Columbia, Okanogan and Colville Bands. Rhylee received her Juris Doctor from the University of Idaho College Of Law in 2015. Since becoming a licensed attorney, Rhylee has represented the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, the Kalispel Tribe of Indians, and the Tulalip Tribes.