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NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN COURT JUDGES ASSOCIATION
SERVING TRIBAL JUSTICE SYSTEMS SINCE 1969

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The Passing of Judge Claudette White

Boulder, CO. It is with incredible sorrow that the National American Indian Court Judges Association announces that Judge Claudette White, Board of Directors for Region 2, has walked on. Judge White served on the Steering Committee and eventually, the Board of Directors beginning in 2019. During her time on the Board, she helped inform and guide ongoing training related to administering justice in tribal courts during the pandemic. She succumbed to COVID-19 on February 6, 2021, after a brief hospitalization.

Judge White has been an instrumental figure in Indian Law and tribal courts. She was a graduate of Arizona State University College of Law with a certificate in Indian law. After law school, Judge White began her judicial career as Chief Judge of the Quechan Indian Tribe where she served for 12 years. She later served as Chief Judge of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. Judge White recently stepped away from the bench when she was elected to the Tribal Council for the Quechan Indian Tribe. In between her work on the bench, she was an expert in tribal courts, advocacy, and government. She was featured in the acclaimed documentary, *Tribal Justice*, where she invited cameras into her courtroom to capture traditional and restorative justice practices. She was also an active member of the California Tribal-State Court Forum. NAICJA President Richard Blake described her as a “passionate advocate for tribes and courts.” He continued, “she presented herself as shy, but it was very apparent that she carried powerful knowledge and wisdom that were beyond her years. Indian Country, NAICJA, and the tribal justice community lost a true warrior. Fly high and dance freely, Claudette.” The NAICJA Board of Directors, Steering Committee, and staff send our sincere condolences to Claudette’s son, Zion, her sisters, her family and friends, and to her community.

