



22ND ANNUAL CALIFORNIA INDIAN LAW  
CONFERENCE & AWARDS DINNER

POST SELF-DETERMINATION:

# A NEW ERA IN INDIAN LAW

OCTOBER 2-4, 2022

MORONGO CASINO RESORT & SPA



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# A letter from the California Indian Law Association, Inc.



[www.calindianlaw.org](http://www.calindianlaw.org)

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## WELCOME BACK!

On behalf of the 2021-2022 California Indian Law Association Board of Directors, thank you for joining us back in person for our 22nd Annual California Indian Law Conference at the Morongo Casino Resort & Spa.

Since 2000, CILA has hosted an annual conference dedicated to the exploration of legal topics of interest to California Indian tribes and to provide continuing education on cutting edge legal issues for Native attorneys and attorneys practicing Native law in California. Over the past 20 years, the conference has tackled important issues ranging from employment law, gaming compacting, Indian child welfare, environmental compliance, and more. This year, the theme is "Post Self Determination: A New Era in Indian Law." We will explore the issues and trends that have defined the latest era in Indian Law and discuss how we can shape the future of Indian law in California.

We are also excited to carry on the tradition of acknowledging the achievements of our peers by presenting the Outstanding Achievement in California Indian Law and Outstanding Young Attorney awards. We hope you will join us for the Awards Dinner to celebrate this year's awardees.

We thank all of the conference sponsors for making the conference possible, the Morongo Casino Resort & Spa for their hospitality, and our membership for joining us for this special occasion.

Please find us at [www.calindianlaw.org](http://www.calindianlaw.org) to find out more about our organization and events throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Simon Gertler  
CILA Board Member  
Conference Committee Chair



# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



Generous sponsors make the California Indian Law Association, Inc.'s programming possible - including the Annual California Indian Law Conference. The CILA Board of Directors set a fundraising goal of \$150,000 to fund the 2022-23 activities that enhance the legal profession and tribal justice systems in California by promoting professional growth, high standards of professional competence and ethical conduct. There is still time for you or your organization to learn more about and contribute to CILA's programming. Please use the QR code or visit us at [bit.ly/CILASponsorship](https://bit.ly/CILASponsorship) to view the 2022 Sponsorship Packet.



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Jenner & Block is proud  
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congratulate **Leonard R. Powell**,  
Associate at Jenner & Block,  
on receiving the Outstanding  
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deserved accomplishment.

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For more information,  
please contact:  
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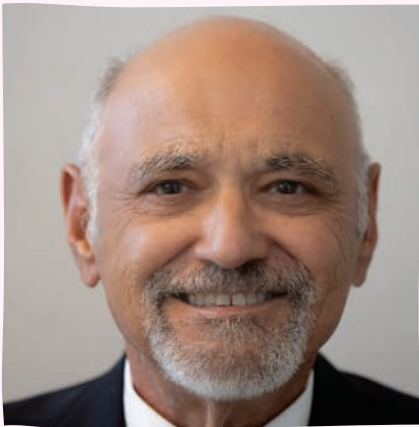


## JOIN CILA TODAY!

*By registering with CILA, you will become part of a wide network of attorneys, professionals, scholars, tribal leaders and community members engaged in the Indian law field. Additional benefits of CILA membership include reduced conference rates and free CLEs. Join us today! Remember, membership in CILA for current law students is free!*

Join us by visiting [calindianlaw.org](http://calindianlaw.org)

# 2022 Awardees



**Mike Pfeffer**

PARTNER, MAIER PFEFFER KIM  
GEARY & COHEN LLP

## **2022 Outstanding Achievement in Indian Law Award**

Mike Pfeffer received his BA from Cornell University where he was a Cornell Regent's Scholar and JD from Berkeley and started his career in Indian Law in 1978 as a summer law clerk for California Indian Legal Services, and continued working at CILS for next 28 years, the last 23 years as Executive Director and General Counsel. CILS, during his tenure, grew five-fold and at one point became the largest Indian law firm in the United States. Among the many notable accomplishments CILS achieved during this era was its success in restoring federal recognition for one out of every 12 Indian tribes located in the lower 48 states; over 40 favorable appellate court decisions, initiation of the first mass tort, tribal class action lawsuit, the establishment of the only D.C. based field office by a local legal aid program and securing countless special protections, funding increases and favorable treatment for California tribes and Indians through litigation, legislative and administrative advocacy. After retiring from CILS in 2006, Mike and John Maier founded Maier and Pfeffer, now Maier, Pfeffer, Kim, Geary and Cohen, a 10-attorney law firm that exclusively represents California tribal entities on all matters affecting tribal governments.



**Lenny Powell**

HOPLAND BAND OF POMO INDIANS  
SENIOR ASSOCIATE, JENNER & BLOCK

## **2022 OUTSTANDING YOUNG ATTORNEY AWARD**

Leonard R. Powell is a senior associate in the Appellate and Supreme Court practice and the Native American Law practice at Jenner & Block, LLP. A California Indian, he is a former leader of his Tribe, the Hopland Band of Pomo Indians. He is also a former member of the CILA Board of Directors.

Lenny represents clients before appellate and trial courts throughout the country in cases raising high-stakes issues of constitutional and statutory interpretation, administrative law, and of course federal Indian law. He regularly briefs matters before the United States Supreme Court, where he has won a number of cases on the merits and successfully opposed dozens of petitions for certiorari. His Indian law Supreme Court cases include *McGirt v. Oklahoma*, *Sharp v. Murphy*, *Oklahoma v. Castro-Huerta*, *Washington State Department of Licensing v. Cougar Den, Inc.*, and this coming Term's *Brackeen v. Haaland*. Lenny is a graduate of the Harvard Law School, where he was an editor of the *Harvard Law Review*. He clerked for the Honorable Allison H. Eid of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit and the Honorable Beryl A. Howell of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

## KEYNOTE HIGHLIGHT

On May 18, 2022, the United States Senate confirmed President Joe Biden's nomination of Sunshine Suzanne Sykes to serve as a federal district judge for the United States District Court for the Central District of California. Judge Sykes presides over matters in Riverside in the Court's Eastern Division. Prior to joining the federal bench, Judge Sykes served as a Superior Court Judge for Riverside County since her appointment by Governor Jerry Brown in 2013.

From 2005 to 2013, Judge Sykes served as a Deputy County Counsel for the Riverside County Office of County Counsel where she handled a variety of matters, including conducting numerous trainings on the Indian Child Welfare Act for judges, attorneys, and social workers throughout California. From 2003 to 2005, Judge Sykes was a contract attorney with the Juvenile Defense Panel in Riverside County where she specialized in cases involving the Indian Child Welfare Act. Before that, from 2001 to 2003, Judge Sykes worked as a staff attorney at California Indian Legal Services.

Throughout her career, Judge Sykes has been involved in multiple bar and judges associations and civic organizations, including the California Judicial Council's Tribal Court /State Court Forum and the Riverside County Tribal Alliance for Indian Children and Families. Judge Sykes received her Bachelor of Arts degree, with Departmental Honors, from Stanford University in 1997, and her Juris Doctor degree from Stanford Law School in 2001.

Judge Sykes is a member of the Navajo Nation and is the first Native American to serve as a federal district judge in California.



**THE HON.  
SUNSHINE S. SYKES**

*(Navajo, Descendant of  
Coyote Pass-Jemez Clan)*

# MCLE INSTRUCTIONS

## 22ND ANNUAL CALIFORNIA INDIAN LAW CONFERENCE

This year's attorney MCLE credits are sponsored by the California Tribal Families Coalition. Hard copy forms will be available for those attending the conference and virtual copies will be made available to those watching via livestream. 7.0 credit hours total will be provided, including 1.0 special credit for the required MCLE on "Elimination of Bias." Please refer to the agenda for the breakdown of credits available.



The mission of the California Tribal Families Coalition is to promote and protect the health, safety and welfare of tribal children and families, which are inherent tribal governmental functions and are at the core of tribal sovereignty and tribal governance. The Coalition is a tribally led organization that represents nearly half of all federally recognized tribes in California. The Coalition regularly provides MCLE trainings on the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and California dependency law topics. Connect with the Coalition at

[caltribalfamilies.org](http://caltribalfamilies.org) or  
[contact@caltribalfamilies.org](mailto:contact@caltribalfamilies.org).



**CALIFORNIA  
TRIBAL FAMILIES  
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## AGENDA | Sunday, October 2

### 22ND ANNUAL CALIFORNIA INDIAN LAW CONFERENCE

#### Time

#### Activity

2:00pm

#### Board Meeting

CILA Board members will be meeting for a regular meeting. CILA membership is welcome to observe!

3:00pm

#### Strategic Planning Session

Join the CILA Board for a strategic planning session where we will set CILA's goals and vision for the next year. Input from our members is welcome and encouraged.

4:00pm

#### Joining the CILA Board--Info Session

Come find out more information about the board member duties and how to join!

7:00pm-9:00pm

#### Social Hour

Canyon Lanes Bowling Alley at Morongo Casino Resort and Spa. Appetizers will be provided.

# AGENDA | Monday, October 3

## 22ND ANNUAL CALIFORNIA INDIAN LAW CONFERENCE

Time	Activity	Presenter
8:00am – 8:30am	<b>Registration &amp; Breakfast</b>	
8:45am – 9:00am	<b>Introduction &amp; Opening Prayer</b>	<b>Tamara Honrado</b> , CILA Board President <b>Walter Holmes</b> , Morongo Bird Singer
9:00am – 10:00am	<b>Plenary 1: Legislative Update</b>  Panelists will provide updates on the latest in federal and state legislation related to Indian tribes, including propositions on the upcoming November ballot in California.	<b>Xavier Barraza</b> Senior Associate Attorney, Peebles Kidder <b>Jacob Mejia</b> Vice President of Public and External Affairs, Pechanga Development Corporation <b>Vanessa Brierty</b> Consultant, California Native American Legislative Caucus
10:00am – 10:15am	<b>Break</b>	
10:15am – 11:15am	<b>Plenary 2: Litigation Update</b>  Hear from the attorneys behind this year's most consequential cases for tribes in California and across the country. Panelists will address <i>Brackeen v. Haaland</i> , California gaming compact litigation, and cases involving fee-to-trust, federal trespass, and tribes as indispensable parties.	<b>Rebecca Ross</b> Senior Attorney, Indian Resources Section, U.S. Department of Justice <b>Leonard R. Powell</b> Senior Associate, Jenner & Block <b>Lester Marston</b> Sole Practitioner, Rapport and Marston
11:15am - 12:00pm	<b>CILA Annual Membership Meeting</b>	
12:00pm – 1:00pm	<b>Lunch</b>	
1:00pm - 1:30pm	<b>Keynote Address</b>	<b>The Honorable Sunshine S. Sykes</b> Judge, United States District Court for the Central District of California
1:30pm - 1:45pm	<b>Break</b>	
1:45pm - 2:45pm	<b>Plenary 3: Indigenous Futurism: Liberatory Approaches to Self-Determination</b>  Join this intergenerational panel for a discussion on the possibilities for Tribal Nations (both "recognized" and "unrecognized"), Indigenous Peoples, and Indian law attorneys to go beyond the established litigation, legislative, and sovereignty frameworks of the American legal system into the future. The panel will speak on working "outside of the box" to achieve self-determination in areas such as land and natural resources, systems of justice, and economic development.	<b>Grace Carson</b> Skadden Fellow, Tribal Law and Policy Institute <b>Caleen Sisk</b> Spiritual Leader and Tribal Chief of the Winnemem Wintu Tribe <b>Nazune Menka</b> Lecturer and Tribal Cultural Resources Policy Fellow at UC Berkeley School of Law
2:45pm - 3:00pm	<b>Break</b>	
3:00pm - 4:00pm	<b>Plenary 4: Two Years Under the Haaland Administration</b>  Secretary Deb Haaland is the first Native American cabinet secretary in United States history. As the secretary of the Department of Interior, she oversees the Bureau of Indian Affairs. How have Interior's policies affecting tribes changed over the past two years? How can we expect them to change over the next two years? Panelists will discuss regulations affecting gaming, fee-to-trust, and tribal co-management.	<b>Bethany Sullivan</b> Partner, Maier Pfeffer Kim Geary & Cohen LLP <b>Stephanie Sfiridis</b> Senior Counselor to the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs at the U.S. Department of the Interior <b>Vanessa Racehorse</b> Assistant Professor of Law at the University of New Mexico School of Law
4:00pm	<b>Closing Remarks</b>	<b>Simon Gertler</b> , CILA Conference Committee Chair
6:00pm - 8:00pm	<b>Dinner &amp; Awards Ceremony</b>  We will be honoring our awardees Lenny Powell, Outstanding Young Attorney Award, and Michael Pfeffer, Outstanding Achievement in Indian Law. Following the Awards Ceremony, Michael Pfeffer will present on the History of California Indian Law.	<b>With a performance by the Morongo Bird Singers</b> Walter Holmes, Keith Rice, Jeranimo Holmes and Lyle Necochea

# AGENDA | Tuesday, October 4

22ND ANNUAL CALIFORNIA INDIAN LAW CONFERENCE

Time	Activity	Presenter
8:30am – 9:00am	<b>Registration &amp; Breakfast</b>	
9:00am – 9:15am	<b>Welcome Back</b>	
9:15am – 10:15am	<b>Plenary 5: Tribal Courts and Public Safety</b>  Hear from representatives from California Indian Legal Services and the California Tribal Police Chiefs Association on their efforts to pass legislation for Peace Officer status for Tribal Police Departments and access to the CLETS database for domestic violence protection orders.	<b>Dorothy Alther</b> Legal Director, California Indian Legal Services Escondido Office  <b>Chief Bill Denke</b> Chief of Police, Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation
10:15am – 10:30am	<b>Break</b>	
10:30am – 11:00am	<b>CILA Board Election Results and Silent Auction Winners</b>  The CILA Board of Directors will announce the election results for the Board of Director positions and Silent Auction Winners	
11:00am – 11:15am	<b>Break</b>	
11:15am – 12:15pm	<b>Plenary 6: Elimination of Bias on Disabilities and Indigeneity in the Law</b>  This presentation will explore the intersection of disabilities and Indigeneity and how to eliminate biases on these topics in the practice of law. The speaker presents regularly on eugenics, disability, tribal nations and child welfare, and has successfully participated in multiple state legislative efforts to increase protections for parents with disabilities and their children. This presentation will also highlight the only training and support program for tribal nations around disability and family rights.	<b>Ella Callow</b> ADA/504 Compliance Officer, University of California Berkeley
12:15pm - 12:30pm	<b>Closing Remarks</b>	<b>Tamara Honrado</b> , CILA Board President
12:30pm	<b>Lunch: Grab a lunch box to go!</b>	

**We're reducing our paper use!**

For more resources and presentation materials  
please access the conference Dropbox at

<https://bit.ly/22ndCILC>



# EVENT SPEAKERS

## 22ND ANNUAL CALIFORNIA INDIAN LAW CONFERENCE

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### Jacob Mejia

Jacob Mejia has over 20 years of experience in public affairs. He is currently the Vice President of Public and External Affairs for the Pechanga Development Corporation where he oversees media relations, government affairs, charitable giving, community relations, and communications. Since 2004, Jacob has also served as executive director of the Tribal Alliance of Sovereign Indian Nations (TASIN), an intergovernmental association of federally recognized tribal governments in Southern California. Since that time he has helped to position TASIN as a leading voice in California for the rights of Indian Tribes. Mr. Mejia has been involved in major public policy issues involving California Tribes for the last 20 years, including tribal-state compacts, online gaming, off-reservation gaming, the Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund, and sacred sites protection. Mr. Mejia has also served in a senior management capacity for nearly every statewide ballot measure campaign over Indian gaming in California.



### Vanessa Brierty

Vanessa Brierty is an enrolled tribal member from the Pueblo of Laguna. She currently serves as the consultant to the California Native American Legislative Caucus which is chaired by Assemblymember James Ramos. As the consultant she works alongside tribes, and state legislators to educate, address, and advocate on Native American issues in the State of California. She is a Certified Health Education Specialist with a bachelors degree in Health Education and Health Promotion. She is currently working on her masters degree in Indigenous Education. She recently shared her perspective on using cultural traditional practices as a means of wellness in a TedX talk. It is her goal to continue to come alongside tribal communities to encourage, support, and guide them to reach their fullest potential.



### Xavier Barraza

Xavier Barraza is a Senior Associate Attorney at Peebles Kidder Bergin & Robinson, LLP, a law firm dedicated to protecting Native American tribes and tribal organizations and strengthening tribal sovereignty. He has over 15 years of policy and legal experience representing tribal governments. His broad expertise encompasses Indian housing, tax, finance, tribal lands, natural and environmental resources, economic development, tribal codes and ordinances, litigation, and veterans' affairs. He is also the co-founder of 7GenLeaders, a Native American political action committee. As a result, he has extensive knowledge of campaign finance, election, and voting rights laws. He is an enrolled member of the Hopland Band of Pomo Indians and is a proud alumnus of Sherman Indian High School, Haskell Indian Nations University, and the University of New Mexico School of Law.

# EVENT SPEAKERS

## 22ND ANNUAL CALIFORNIA INDIAN LAW CONFERENCE

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### Leonard R. Powell

Leonard R. Powell is a senior associate in the Appellate and Supreme Court practice and the Native American Law practice at Jenner & Block, LLP. A California Indian, he is a former leader of his Tribe, the Hopland Band of Pomo Indians. He is also a former member of the CILA Board of Directors. Lenny represents clients before appellate and trial courts throughout the country in cases raising high-stakes issues of constitutional and statutory interpretation, administrative law, and of course federal Indian law. He regularly briefs matters before the United States Supreme Court, where he has won a number of cases on the merits and successfully opposed dozens of petitions for certiorari. His Indian law Supreme Court cases include *McGirt v. Oklahoma*, *Sharp v. Murphy*, *Oklahoma v. Castro-Huerta*, *Washington State Department of Licensing v. Cougar Den, Inc.*, and this coming Term's *Brackeen v. Haaland*. Lenny is a graduate of the Harvard Law School, where he was an editor of the Harvard Law Review. He clerked for the Honorable Allison H. Eid of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit and the Honorable Beryl A. Howell of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.



### Rebecca Ross

Rebecca is a Senior Attorney with the Indian Resources Section of the Environment and Natural Resources Division within the U.S. Department of Justice. In this role, Rebecca primarily works on and oversees federal court litigation defending agency decisions made for the benefit of Indian tribes, including decisions involving land into trust and trespass. Rebecca also works to advance and protect tribal water rights in state courts in the western United States. Prior to this role, Rebecca worked as an attorney within the Division of Indian Affairs in the Office of the Solicitor at the U.S. Department of the Interior, handling trust acquisition and reservation boundary issues. Rebecca holds a J.D. and Indian Law Certificate from the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University.



### Lester Marston

Lester J. Marston has more than forty years of experience representing Indian tribal governments and individual Indians. Mr. Marston's practice includes experience practicing in all facets of federal Indian law. Mr. Marston has served as in-house counsel to 16 federally recognized Indian tribes located in the States of California, Arizona, Oregon, and Wisconsin and has worked with tribes, Indian organizations, and groups in the States of Kansas, Michigan, New York, Minnesota, and Washington.

Mr. Marston has litigated a variety of cases on behalf of Indian tribes in both state and federal courts, including major impact cases in the areas of tribal water rights, Indian taxation, zoning, tribal elections, hunting and fishing rights, Indian gaming, and breaches of trust by the United States Government for mismanagement of tribal resources. These cases include but are not limited to: *Chemehuevi Indian Tribe v. California State Board of Equalization*, 757 F.2d 1047 (9th Cir. 1985); *Chemehuevi Indian Tribe v. Wilson*, 987 F. Supp. 804 (N.D. Cal. 1997); *Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians v. United States*, 639 F. Supp. 165 (E.D. Cal. 1985); *Smith v. United States*, 515 F. Supp. 51 (N.D. Cal. 1978); *Hopland Band of Pomo Indians v. Norton*, 324 F. Supp. 2d 1067 (N.D. Cal. 2004); *State of Wisconsin v. Ho-Chunk Nation*, 463 F.3d 655 (7th Cir. 2006); *Stockbridge-Munsee Cmty. v. Wisconsin*, 922 F.3d 818 (7th Cir. 2019); *United States v. Burnett*, 747 F.App'x 602 (9th Cir. 2019); *Chemehuevi Indian Tribe v. McMahon*, 934 F.3d 1076 (9th Cir. 2019); and *Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians v. California*, 42 F. 4th 1024 (9th Cir. 2022).

# EVENT SPEAKERS

## 22ND ANNUAL CALIFORNIA INDIAN LAW CONFERENCE

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### Simon Gertler

Simon Gertler is an associate attorney at Maier Pfeffer Kim Geary & Cohen in Oakland, CA, where he provides general and litigation counsel to tribal clients. Simon has litigated cases on behalf of tribes in state and federal courts, including arguing before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Simon began practicing law in Colorado, where he represented tribes in water rights litigation. While a law student in the Indian Legal Program at Arizona State University, Simon gained experience working for the Indian Law Resource Center in Montana, an Indian law firm in Alaska, and the U.S. Department of Justice Indian Resources Section in Washington, D.C. Simon completed his final semester studying indigenous law at the University of Victoria, British Columbia. Simon draws from his experiences across Turtle Island to offer thorough counsel and effective advocacy to his tribal clients.



### Caleen Sisk

Caleen Sisk is the Spiritual Leader and Tribal Chief of the Winnemem Wintu Tribe, who practice their traditional culture and ceremonies in their territory along the McCloud River watershed in Northern California. For more than 30 years, Caleen was mentored and taught in traditional healing and Winnemem culture by her late great aunt, Florence Jones, who was the tribe's spiritual leader for 68 years. Caleen's traditional teachings and training comes from an unbroken line of leadership of the Winnemem Wintu Tribe. Since assuming leadership responsibilities in 2000, Caleen has focused on maintaining the cultural and religious traditions of the Tribe as well as advocating for California salmon restoration, the Human Right to Water and the protection of Indigenous sacred sites. She is also currently leading her Tribe's efforts to work with Maori and federal fish biologists to return Chinook salmon to the McCloud River. Caleen is an internationally known speaker on traditional tribal and spiritual issues, having spoken on diverse topics such as spiritual medicine ways, the spirit of water, global warming, sacred sites protection and the responsibility of tribal people to honor their tribal lifeway.

Caleen is also a leading voice in raising awareness of the poor human rights conditions suffered by federally unrecognized tribes and unrepresented Indigenous peoples around the world. She is a regular speaker at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York where she has campaigned for the U.N. to study the plight of federally unrecognized tribes in the United States. She is also the Spiritual and Environmental Commissioner for ENLACE Continental, an international network of Indigenous women. In 2021, she was named as a member of Governor Newsom's Truth and Healing Council.

Strongly rooted in her spirituality and her family, Caleen cares deeply for her Winnemem people and for oppressed people around the world. Caleen received her B.A. from Chico State University, CA in 1975, and received her teaching credential from CSU, Chico in 1976.

# EVENT SPEAKERS

## 22ND ANNUAL CALIFORNIA INDIAN LAW CONFERENCE

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### Grace Carson

Grace Carson is an Indigenous (Yavapi/Chiricahua Apache) and Chicana lawyer from Choctaw, Oklahoma. A 2022 Skadden Fellowship recipient, Grace works as a Skadden Fellow for Tribal Law and Policy Institute to work with tribes on developing restorative justice systems and practices as alternatives to incarceration and punishment. Her research and scholarship focuses on ethnic studies, critical Indigenous studies, decolonization theory, and abolition theory.



### Nazune Menka

Nazune Menka (Denaakk'e & Lumbee) currently serves as a Lecturer and Tribal Cultural Resources Policy Fellow at UC Berkeley School of Law. As a graduate of the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law's Indigenous Peoples Law & Policy (IPLP) program her areas of interest include Indigenous nation building, advocating for international human rights and for the economic success of tribal governments, and litigating in state, federal, and tribal courts. Ms. Menka also currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos & Native Americans in Science (SACNAS), and is Of Counsel at Rosette, LLP. Before entering the legal profession, Ms. Menka researched the intersections of Indigenous knowledge, resiliency, traditional food systems, and transboundary pollution as well as the impacts of abandoned mining sites on public health receiving her M.S. in Soil, Water & Environmental Science from the University of Arizona in 2014.



### Vanessa Racehorse

Vanessa Racehorse (Shoshone-Bannock Tribes) is an Assistant Professor of Law at the University of New Mexico School of Law, where she teaches in the Law and Indigenous Peoples Program and is the Faculty Advisor for the Tribal Law Journal.

Racehorse has previously taught as the Supervising Attorney of UNM's Southwest Indian Law Clinic and as an Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of San Diego School of Law. Racehorse has also served as a Deputy Attorney General for the Colorado River Indian Tribes and was an Associate Attorney at Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Endreson & Perry, LLP, a top-ranked national law firm dedicated to representing Native American interests.

She has an LL.M in International Criminal Law from the University of Amsterdam and a JD from Columbia Law School, where she was a recipient of the Parker School Recognition of Achievement in International and Comparative Law, President of the Columbia Native American Law Students Association and the Bluebook Editor for the Columbia Law Review.

# EVENT SPEAKERS

## 22ND ANNUAL CALIFORNIA INDIAN LAW CONFERENCE

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### Bethany Sullivan

Bethany Sullivan is a partner with Maier Pfeffer Kim Geary & Cohen LLP. Bethany advises broadly on tribal governance, economic development, fee-to-trust land acquisitions, cultural resources, gaming and business transactions, natural resources and environmental compliance, and other matters involving tribal, federal, and state law. Prior to joining the firm in 2019, Bethany was a Visiting Associate Professor of Law and the founding Director of the Natural Resource Use & Management Clinic at the University of Arizona College of Law. She worked with a variety of clients, including tribal governments, and taught courses on natural resource and administrative law. Bethany began her legal career as an attorney-advisor with the Department of the Interior, where she advised the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Indian Affairs on policy, regulation, and litigation concerning tribal lands and natural resources.



### Stephanie Sfiridis

Stephanie Sfiridis is an enrolled member of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and serves as Senior Counselor to the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs at the U.S. Department of the Interior. Her portfolio includes issue areas such as Realty and Land into Trust, Gaming, and Federal Acknowledgement. Stephanie previously served as an Associate Attorney at Rosette, LLP in Washington, D.C. where she represented tribal clients on a wide range of issues including economic development, transactional matters, government affairs and policy, fee to trust, and litigation. Prior to moving to Washington, D.C., she served as In-House Counsel for her Tribe where she worked on a variety of issues for both the Tribe's gaming authority and government. Stephanie holds an undergraduate degree from Central Connecticut State University and is a 2016 alumna of the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University. In 2016, she received the prestigious 40 Under 40 award from the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development.



### Mica Llerandi

Mica Llerandi is Diné/Navajo and the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Director of the UCLA Tribal Legal Development Clinic at UCLA School of Law. She previously served as a Senior Attorney at California Tribal Families Coalition and Staff Attorney at California Indian Legal Services in the Escondido Office. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies from Yale University and her Juris Doctor and Certificate in Indigenous People's Law and Policy from the University of Arizona. Mica worked on multiple Indian Reservations in Arizona; first on the Navajo Nation as a Staff Attorney and Domestic Violence Project Director with DNA-People's Legal Services, then as a Deputy Community Prosecutor on the Gila River Indian Community, and lastly, as a Guardian ad Litem on the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. In 2016, she moved to California and joined Children's Legal Services of San Diego where she represented children in dependency proceedings in San Diego County.

# EVENT SPEAKERS

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### Dorothy Alther

Dorothy Alther has practiced Indian law since 1985 and been with CILS since 1989. While at CILS Dorothy has served as a Staff Attorney, Directing Attorney, Executive Director and was made Legal Director in 2021. Ms. Alther is the recipient of the national 2010 Pierce Hickerson Award which is granted to distinguished Indian legal services attorneys. She also received the "Outstanding Achievement in California Indian Law" award from the California Indian Lawyers Association in 2014. Ms. Alther was in the Bishop CILS Office until she relocated to the Escondido Office in 2003. In addition to her executive and administrative duties, Ms. Alther maintains an active case load serving as legal counsel for several Tribes and tribal entities. Her current work focuses on impact litigation on matters for federal Indian law as well as working directly with tribes on building tribal governmental infrastructure. Ms. Alther has assisted tribes with tribal court and law enforcement development, working with tribes on establishing or revising tribal governing documents and building tribal program law. Ms. Alther is also active in ensuring CILS is involved in state and federal issues impacting Tribes and tribal communities. This includes providing comments on behalf of tribal client to pending state and federal rules or legislation, partnering with others and tribal coalitions to advance legislation or regulation to protect and enhance tribal governments and providing community information and awareness on critical issues impacting California tribes. Ms. Alther has been a trainer on Public Law 280, the Indian Child Welfare Act, Housing Law, Tribal Law Enforcement, Building Tribal Courts, Tribal Law and Order Act, the Violence Against Women Act, and Cultural Resource Protection. Dorothy is a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe and graduated from University of South Dakota and earned her J.D. from Northeastern University. Ms. Alther served as Managing Attorney at DNA's People's Legal Services in Crownpoint, New Mexico prior to coming to CILS and has acted as Tribal Attorney for the Suquamish Tribe in Washington.



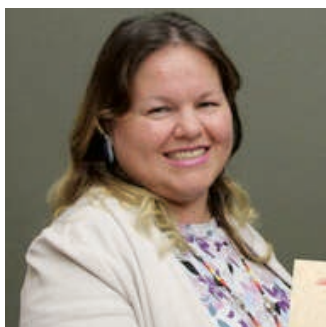
### Chief Bill Denke

Bill has served the Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation as Chief of Police for the past 16 years. He has served as a subject matter expert for California's Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training in developing the training curriculums, "Policing Indian Lands" and "Responding to Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Calls on Tribal Lands". Bill was appointed to the National Indian Law and Order Commission's Advisory Committee in 2012. He is the current chairman of the Indian Country Section of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), is appointed to the IACP's Criminal Justice Information Systems Committee, and is a member of IACP's Board of Directors. Bill is also the chairman of the California Tribal Police Chiefs' Association. In 2014, he was appointed to the FBI's Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Advisory Policy Board where he still serves, and also chairs that board's tribal task force. Locally, Bill serves on the board of directors for Crime Stoppers San Diego. Also, he regularly teaches an in-service training course, "Policing Indian Lands" for the San Diego Sheriff's Department. Bill received his formal law enforcement training at the San Diego Regional Law Enforcement Training Center and executive training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center and the US Indian Police Academy.

# EVENT SPEAKERS

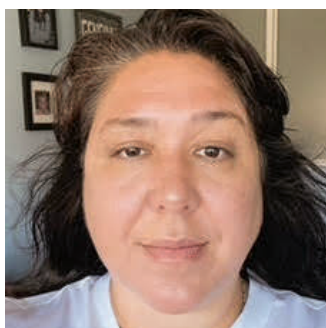
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### Angi Cavaliere

Angi Cavaliere is the Supervising Staff Attorney for the Yurok Tribal Court. She is a member of the Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohicans. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Social Change & Development with a minor in First Nation's Studies from University of Wisconsin – Green Bay. She obtained her law degree accompanied by a fellowship in Children's Rights from Whittier Law School. The Public Law Center awarded Angi the Wiley Manuel Award for Public Service in 2011 for the work she did as a law student assisting underrepresented populations. After law school, Angi obtained a Master of Jurisprudence in Children's Law & Policy from Loyola Law School - Chicago. Having previously served as Minor's Counsel in the LA County ICWA Court, she moved north to work with the Yurok Tribal Court in the Spring of 2019. She continued her ICWA advocacy with the National Indian Justice Center where she trained tribal and state social workers and advocates on Dependency and ICWA. In January 2020, she was certified as a Child Welfare Legal Specialist by the National Association of Counsel for Children. In her current position, she leads the Court's legal access center, family law guardianship & elder social workers, reentry/diversion, youth diversion, and To' Kee Skuy Soo Ney-wo-chek' (MMIW) projects while also serving as Court Counsel.



### Ella Callow

Ms. Callow has a J.D. from Berkeley School of Law and has practiced law since 2001. Prior to working for UC Berkeley, Ms. Callow served for 12 years as Legal Director for the National Center on Parents with Disabilities and their Families, a NIDILRR funded research, policy and legislative program. She has written federal reports, peer-reviewed articles, and book chapters on the topics of disability rights, the intersection of disability/indigenous nations, and the parenting rights of persons with disabilities in the U.S. judicial system. She has organized and keynoted national and international disability parenting rights conferences, participated in White House panels on eugenics, disability, tribal nations and child welfare, and successfully participated in multiple state legislative efforts to increase protections for parents with disabilities and their children. She has created the only training and support program for Tribal Nations around disability and family rights, and supported attorneys and their clients in hundreds of cases involving the human and civil rights of parents with disabilities and their children. She has acted as a litigation consultant for the federal Department of Justice, Civil Rights Sector, on the issue of disabled parents' rights involving state actors. Most recently this resulted in the landmark settlement between the DOJ and the state of Massachusetts to reform their child welfare system. In 2022, she edited with Drs. Susan Burch and Juliette Larkin-Gilmore, a special edition for Disability Studies Quarterly entitled *Indigeneity & Disability: Kinship, Place, and Knowledge-Making*. It is a collection of writings, poems, photographic essays and narratives by Indigenous scholars and non-scholars engaging the intersection of disability and Indigeneity.



### Lauren Goschke

Lauren Goschke is a descendant of the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians and is in-house counsel at Southern California Edison. She received a B.A. in Anthropology and a B.S. in Environmental Science from U.C. Berkeley, a M.S. and a M.P.P. from Oregon State University, and her law degree and certificate in Indian law from the University of Colorado Law School. While in law school Lauren served as the President of NALSA, the Executive Editor of the Colorado Natural Resources, Energy, & Environmental Law Review, and a student attorney in the American Indian Law Clinic. She also clerked at the Native American Rights Fund in Boulder, Colorado, the Solicitor's Office at the Department of Interior in the Division of Indian Affairs in Washington D.C., and at Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Miller & Munson in Anchorage, Alaska. Prior to law school Lauren was a forester for the U.S. Forest Service in Idaho.



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**BEN BEGAY'S FINE DINEH JEWELRY**

My name is Ben Begay, I am Navajo and I come from a family of Accomplished artists and it shows in my work of Fine Inlay and Stamp Work. All of my pieces of jewelry tell a story on what I inlay in the Rings, Earrings, Pendants and Bracelets. I was taught by my Uncles that do Fine Handmade Inlayed Jewelry.

Instagram: officialBenBegay01  
Facebook: Ben Begay's Fine Dineh Jewelry



**TINY TOTS NC**

Tiny Tots started with one custom outfit for the little ones birthday and expanded making everyday outfits and more.

I enjoy creating fun things, beautiful beadwork and more for the whole family  
Instagram: Tiny\_Tots\_NC

**2022 CONFERENCE VENDORS:**

Charlene Johnson  
Connie Begay  
Arlene Joe  
NativeTalentz  
Louzetta Scott  
Misty Hernandez  
Colleen Mountain  
Louise Shortman

# NOTES

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*Thank you for  
joining us.*



2022 California Indian Law Conference