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Director, Indian Law Clinic
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Leading expert on the Indian Child Welfare Act, dynamic presenter and educator, prolific author, with a demonstrated commitment to Indian Country, specifically tribal justice systems

Legal Publications

The Challenge of Indian Child Welfare Act Enforcement in the Modern Age of Child Dependency, 135 YALE LAW JOURNAL FORUM 789 (2026)

AMERICAN INDIAN CHILD WELFARE AND THE LAW: CASES AND MATERIALS, Carolina Academic Press (2nd ed. *forthcoming* 2027)

Indian Child Welfare Act, in COHEN’S HANDBOOK ON FEDERAL INDIAN LAW, LexisNexis (2024)

Complying with Indian Child Welfare Statutes in MICHIGAN FAMILY LAW (Hon. Marilyn J. Kelly et al. eds., 8th ed.) (2024)

The Road to Brackeen: Defending ICWA 2013-2023, 72 AMERICAN U. L. REV. 1673 (2023)

The Indian Child Welfare Act in the Brackeen Years, 27 JUVENILE & FAMILY COURT J. 9 (2023), with Adrian T. Smith.

After Brackeen: Funding Tribal Child Protection Systems, 56 FAMILY L. Q. 191 (2023)

Intimate Choice and Autonomy: Adoptive Couple v. Baby Girl, with Matthew L.M. Fletcher, in CRITICAL RACE JUDGMENTS: REWRITTEN U.S. COURT OPINIONS ON RACE AND THE LAW, Cambridge University Press (2022)

The Indian Child Welfare Act in CHILD WELFARE LAW AND PRACTICE (Donald N. Duquette et al. eds., 4th ed. 2022), with Matthew L.M. Fletcher

Indian Child Welfare Act Annual Case Law Update and Commentary, with Adrian T. Smith, 8 AM. INDIAN L. J. 2 (2020)

AMERICAN INDIAN CHILD WELFARE AND THE LAW: CASES AND MATERIALS, Carolina Academic Press (2019)

Indian Child Welfare Act Annual Case Law Update and Commentary, with Adrian T. Smith, 7 AM. INDIAN L. J. 2 (2019)

Indian Child Welfare Act Annual Case Law Update and Commentary, with Adrian T. Smith, 6 AM. INDIAN L. J. 2 (2018)

The Indian Child Welfare Act in CHILD WELFARE LAW AND PRACTICE 311 (Donald N. Duquette et al. eds., 3rd ed. 2016), co-authored with Matthew L.M. Fletcher

The Invisible Families: Child Welfare and American Indian Active Duty and Veteran Families, co-authored with Peter S. Vicaire, 62 FEDERAL LAWYER 40 (April 2015)

Observing Change: The Indian Child Welfare Act and State Courts, 46 N.Y. ST. BAR ASSC. FAMILY L. REV. 8 (Spring, 2014)

The Vanishing Indian Returns: The Supreme Court's Use of Narrative and Historical Fictions in Federal Indian Law, 57 ST. LOUIS U. L.J. 297 (2013)

Waves of Education: Tribal-State Court Cooperation and the Indian Child Welfare Act, 47 TULSA L. REV. 529 (2012)

Disruption and Impossibility: The Unfortunate Resolution of the Iroquois Land Claims, 11 WYO. L. REV. 375 (2011)

Law Enforcement and Cooperative Public Safety Agreements, co-authored with Matthew L.M. Fletcher and Wenona T. Singel, 89 MICH. B. J. 42 (February, 2010)

The New Laches: Creating Title Where None Existed, 16 GEORGE MASON L. REV. 357 (Winter 2009).

"Channeling Thought": The Legacy of Legal Fictions from 1823, with Jen Camden, 33 AMERICAN INDIAN L. REV. 77 (Spring 2009).

FACING THE FUTURE: THE INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT AT 30, co-editor with Matthew L.M. Fletcher and Wenona T. Singel, Michigan State University Press (2009)

Beyond Minimum Standards: Federal Requirements and State Interpretations of the Indian Child Welfare Act, 45 CT. REV. 26 (2008-2009)

When the Rules Shift: A Review of the Indian Child Welfare Act, M.C.R. 2.615 and Tribal Court Jurisdiction in Michigan Family Law Cases, 10 MICHIGAN CHILD WELFARE LAW J. 11 (Spring, 2007)

The (In)Equities of Federal Indian Law, 54 FEDERAL LAWYER 32 (Mar/Apr 2007)

Selected Online Publications

The Indian Child Welfare Act: Preserving Families is in Children's Best Interests, BILL

OF HEALTH, HARVARD LAW PETRIE-FLOM CENTER (2022),
<https://blog.petrieflom.law.harvard.edu/2022/05/12/the-indian-child-welfare-act-preserving-families-is-in-childrens-best-interests/>

Protecting the Public Health of Indian Tribes: The Indian Child Welfare Act, with Joaquin R. Gallegos, HARVARD PUBLIC HEALTH REVIEW (Winter 2017-2018)

Legal Challenges to ICWA: An Analysis of Current Case Law, with Matthew Newman, 36 ABA CHILD LAW PRACTICE 1, January, 2017 (<https://www.childlawpractice.org/>).

Tribal Disruption and Indian Claims, co-authored with Matthew L.M. Fletcher and Nicholas J. Reo, MICHIGAN LAW REVIEW FIRST IMPRESSIONS, Vol 112, 2014.

Indian Children and their Guardians ad Litem, co-authored with Matthew L.M. Fletcher, 93 BOSTON UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW ANNEX 59, 2013.

Adoptive Couple v. Baby Girl: First Impressions, TURTLE TALK, June 25, 2013 (<http://turtletalk.wordpress.com/2013/06/25/adoptive-couple-v-baby-girl-first-impressions/>).

Working within the Constraints of Sherrill Laches, TURTLE TALK, July 9, 2013 (<http://turtletalk.wordpress.com/2013/07/09/working-within-the-constraints-of-sherrill-laches/>).

Selected Briefs

In re Dependency as to M.K., Nos. 2 CA-JV 2025-0038, 39, 40, Arizona Court of Appeals, Amicus Brief on behalf of Amici Curiae Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, Gila River Indian Community, Navajo Nation, Pascua Yaqui Tribe, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, and Tohono O'odham Nation (May 4, 2026).

Haaland v. Brackeen, No. 21-367, United States Supreme Court, Principal Brief on Behalf of the Four Intervening Tribes and Navajo Nation, August 12, 2022.

In re E.A.M., No. 22SC29, Colorado Supreme Court, Amicus Brief on Behalf of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, May 2, 2022.

California Tribal Families Coalition et al., v. Becerra, No. 20-cv-06018, N.D. California, Plaintiff's Motion and Memorandum in Support of a Motion for Summary Judgment, May 17, 2021.

In re K.C., No. 2020SC533, Colorado Supreme Court, Brief on behalf of the Chickasaw Nation, Nov. 2, 2020.

In re Z.J.G., No. 78790, Washington Supreme Court, Brief on behalf of the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, May 29, 2020.

Brackeen v. Bernhard, No. 18-11479, Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, Reply Brief on

Behalf of the Cherokee Nation, Oneida Nation, Quinault Indian Nation, and Morongo Band of Mission Indians, Feb. 19, 2019.

In re Williams, No. 155994, Michigan Supreme Court, Brief on behalf of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, January 17, 2017.

Oglala Sioux et al v. Fleming, Nos. 17-1135, United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, Amicus Brief on behalf of Navajo Nation, Cherokee Nation, the National Congress of American Indians, and National Indian Child Welfare Association, June 8, 2017.

Carter v. Washburn, No. 15-CV-01259, United States District Court for the District of Arizona, Amicus Brief on behalf of the National Congress of American Indians, Association on American Indian Affairs, and National Indian Child Welfare Association, October 23, 2015.

National Council for Adoption v. Jewell, No. 15-CV-00675, United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, Amicus Brief on behalf of the National Congress of American Indians, Association on American Indian Affairs, and National Indian Child Welfare Association, September 18, 2015.

Two Shields v. Wilkinson, No. 13-3773, United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, Amicus Brief on behalf of the Indigenous Law and Policy Center at Michigan State University College of Law, February 21, 2014.

Onondaga Nation v. New York, No. 10-4273, United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, Amicus Brief on behalf of Indigenous Law and Policy Center at Michigan State University College of Law and the Center for Indigenous Law, Governance & Citizenship at Syracuse University College of Law, March 23, 2012.

In re Morris, No. 142759, Michigan Supreme Court, Amicus Brief on behalf of the American Indian Law Section of the Michigan State Bar, October 13, 2011.

Oneida Indian Nation of New York v. Oneida County, No. 10-1420, United States Supreme Court, Amicus Brief on behalf of Law Professors, June 22, 2011.

In re R.S., No. A10-1390, Minnesota Supreme Court, Amicus Brief on behalf of the Indigenous Law and Policy Center, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, April, 2011.

A.A. v. Needville, No. 09-20091, United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, Amicus Brief on behalf of American Indian Studies Professors, June, 2009.

In re Lee, No. 137653, Michigan Supreme Court, Amicus Brief on behalf of the American Indian Law Section of the Michigan State Bar, February, 2009.

Oral Arguments

In re Cal.E., No. 4-22-0934, 0931, 1053, 1054, Illinois Court of Appeals, on behalf of the Traditional Council of Togiak, May 16, 2023.

In re E.M., No. 05-21-35, Ohio Court of Appeals, on behalf of the Suquamish Tribe, May 24, 2002.

In re K.C., No. 2020SC533, Colorado Supreme Court, on behalf of the Chickasaw Nation, March 9, 2021.

In re Greer, No. 78790, Washington Supreme Court, on behalf of the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska and the Village of Klawock, June 25, 2020.

Legislative and Administrative Materials

Uniform State Indian Child Welfare Act, Uniform Law Commission, As Approved Draft for 2026 Annual Meeting (July 15, 2026)

Uniform State Indian Child Welfare Act, Uniform Law Commission, Draft for 2025 Annual Meeting (July 23, 2025)

Law Professor Comment, Administration on Children, Youth, and Families, Supplemental Notice of Proposed Rule Making on AFCARS (May 9, 2016).

Law Professor Comment, Proposed Federal Regulations for State Courts and Agencies in Indian Child Custody Proceedings (May 18, 2015).

Law Professor Comment, Administration on Children, Youth, and Families, Proposed Changes to Adoption and Foster Care Analysis Reporting System Regulations (April 7, 2015).

Law Professor Comment, Bureau of Indian Affairs Updated Indian Child Welfare Act Guidelines (April 30, 2014).

Selected Media

Eli Hager, When foster parents don't want to give the baby back, THE NEW YORKER, Oct. 23, 2023.

Graham Lee Brewer, Appeals court finds parental kidnapping law does not apply to tribal nations, NBCNEWS, Aug. 19, 2023.

Jessica Lussenhop, The Supreme Court upheld the Indian Child Welfare Act. The long struggle to implement the law continues, PROPUBLICA, June 21, 2023.

Nina Totenberg, The Supreme Court leaves Indian Child Welfare Act intact, NPR, June 15, 2023.

Harmeet Kaur, Should Native Americans get preference over White people in adopting Native children? The Supreme Court may decide, CNN, Nov. 13, 2022.

Roxanna Asgarian, Texas case could change adoption rules for Native American children, and undercut tribal rights, THE TEXAS TRIBUNE, Nov. 10, 2022.

David G. Savage, Supreme Court divided on adoption law that keeps Native American kids in tribal homes, LOS ANGELES TIMES, Nov. 9, 2022.

Nina Totenberg, Supreme Court considers fate of landmark Indian adoption law, NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO, Nov. 8, 2022.

Henry Gass, US has fraught history with Native adoption. Enter the Supreme Court. THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, Nov. 7, 2022.

Michael Karlin, State Supreme Court considers Colorado's obligation to Indigenous children, COLORADO POLITICS, March 17, 2021.

Tripp Crouse & Manola Secaira, Court case challenges how Indian Child Welfare Act could apply in Washington, KNBA, CROSSCUT, Aug. 4, 2020.

Katie Mettler, Tribal families get priority in Native American adoptions. An appeals court will decide whether that's fair, THE WASHINGTON POST, Nov. 9, 2019.

Gabby Deutch, A court battle over a Dallas toddler could decide the future of Native American law, THE ATLANTIC, Feb. 21, 2019.

Teresa Wiltz, Court fights intensify over who gets to adopt Native American children, HUFFINGTON POST, March 18, 2019.

Rebecca Clarren, A right-wing think tank is trying to bring down the Indian Child Welfare Act. Why?, THE NATION, April 6, 2017.

Lorelei Laird, Lawsuits dispute whether the Indian Child Welfare Act is in the best interests of children, ABA JOURNAL, Oct. 1, 2016.

Sarah Elms, Custody Dispute Hinges on Tribal Court Decision, TRAVERSE CITY RECORD EAGLE, June 19, 2016.

Josh Israel, Why a Conservative Legal Organization is Desperately Trying to Kill the Indian Child Welfare Act, THINKPROGRESS, April 8, 2016.

Ashby Jones, Couple Sues Over Tribal Adoption Hurdles, WALL STREET JOURNAL, Oct. 16, 2015.

Selected Presentations and Trainings

ICWA Provisions and Relevant Legal Issues, Oregon Court of Appeals, June 23, 2026

(with Adrian T. Smith).

Vulnerable Populations and Tribal Court: Sovereignty Symposium, Oklahoma City, OK, June 16, 2026.

ICWA and Tribal-State Jurisdiction, American Indian Law Review Symposium, Norman, OK, January 30, 2026.

Best Practices for ICWA Practitioners, Noojimo'iwewin VAWA & ICWA Training, Bay Mills Indian Community, Brimley, MI, August 8, 2025.

Indian Child Welfare Act Legal Training, Court Improvement Program of Massachusetts, May 21, 2025.

Legal Research and Writing for Judicial Clerks, with Justice Montoya-Lewis (WA), American Indian Law Center, Phoenix, AZ, Jan. 31, 2025.

ICWA Webinar Series: The Indian Child Welfare Act and the Role of Tribal and State Attorneys, U.S. Dep't of Justice, Oct. 8, 2024.

Individual versus Group Rights, ICWA Forty Years Later, American Indian Law Review Symposium, Oklahoma City, OK, March 8, 2024.

Interrogating *Haaland v. Brackeen*, Connecticut Law Review Symposium, Oct. 6, 2023.

After *Brackeen*: Outcomes and Implications of the Supreme Court's Decision Upholding the Indian Child Welfare Act, University of Nevada, Los Angeles, Sept. 20, 2023.

What Is the Indian Child Welfare Act and the Supreme Court Case?, Hollins University, Leading Equity, Diversity, and Justice Conference, February 24, 2023.

Brackeen v. Haaland, American University Law Review Annual Symposium, Feb. 3, 2023.

Implications of *Brackeen v. Haaland*, Washington Appellate Judicial Conference, Jan. 12, 2023.

Federal Indian Law Class: ICWA, ULCA School of Law, November 10, 2022.

Brackeen v. Haaland and Practice Issues, Office of Respondent Parent Counsel Annual Conference, Colorado Springs, CO, Sept. 10, 2022.

ICWA 101 and Case Law Update, National Association of Appellate Court Counsel, Berkeley School of Law, July 8, 2022.

ICWA and *Brackeen*, Congressional Briefing, Senate Indian Affairs Committee, June 21, 2022

Brackeen and Michigan ICWA Practice, Michigan Appellate Bench Bar Conference, May 12, 2022

Federal Indian Law Class: ICWA, Harvard Law School, January 11, 2022.

Federal Indian Law Class: ICWA, Maurer School of Law: Indiana University
Bloomington, November 16, 2021.

“National Trends in ICWA Litigation,” University of Washington 34th Annual Indian
Law Symposium Online, October 1, 2021.

Wisconsin Conference on Child Welfare and the Courts, “National Case Law Update,”
Online, September 23, 2021.

Kate Fort on *Brackeen v. Haaland*, The Whitener Group CLE, April 22, 2021.

Special Topics in Family Law: ICWA, UCLA School of Law, March 9, 2021.

ICWA Training with Addie Smith, online with provided training materials, Choctaw
Indian Nation, January 13, 20, 27, and February 3, 2021.

ICWA in Action: Protecting Children and Families, Arizona State University, Online,
October 21, 2020.

American Indian Children in the System, with Iowa Law Dean Kevin Washburn, Online,
Iowa Supreme Court, October 9, 2020.

Practicing ICWA, UCLA Brown Bag Lunch Series, May 26, 2020.

National Indian Child Welfare Association National Conference, ICWA Federal
Litigation and the Importance of State ICWA Laws, Online, April 1, 2020.

Spokane Bar Association, Indian Law Section Conference, National ICWA Case Law
and Litigation Update, Spokane, WA, March 6, 2020.

Federal Bar Association Indian Law Conference, Time for a National Indian Child
Welfare Defense Fund, Albuquerque, NM, April 12, 2019.

Children’s Law Institute, ICWA Litigation Update and Strategies for ICWA
Implementation and Enforcement, Albuquerque, NM, January 20, 2019.

National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, Plenary Session, ICWA’s
Importance and Litigation Attacks, Denver, CO, June 24, 2018.

25th Anniversary California State ICWA Conference, ICWA and Federal Litigation
Concerns, Graton Rancheria, CA, June 4, 2018.

Tribal In-House Counsel Association Lunch CLE, ICWA Litigation Update, Tucson, AZ,
May 23, 2018.

Federal Bar Association Indian Law Conference, Successful ICWA Partnerships,

Phoenix, AZ, April 6, 2018.

Brigham Young University Law School, ICWA and Resiliency, Provo, UT, March 23, 2018.

National American Indian Court Judges Association Annual Conference, ICWA Case Updates and Tribal Codes: Best Practices in Transfer to Tribal Court, Isleta, NM, Oct. 11-12, 2017.

University of Washington School of Law Indian Law Conference, Federal Litigation and ICWA, Seattle, WA, Sept. 7, 2017.

Federal Bar Association Indian Law Conference, Finding ICWA Allies: State Law, Court Rules, and the Press, Phoenix, AZ, April 7, 2017.

National Indian Child Welfare Association Annual Conference, Working with State Court Judges in ICWA Cases, Rincon, CA, April 4, 2017.

Kansas Legal Revitalization Conference, Indian Law Updates: Children, Water, and Land, Feb. 1, 2017.

University of Michigan Law School, Constitutional Challenges to the Indian Child Welfare Act, Oct. 27, 2016.

National American Indian Court Judges Association Annual Conference, ICWA Case Updates and the New Federal Regulations, Cabazon, CA, Oct. 19-20, 2016.

Arizona State University Indian Child Welfare Act CLE, ICWA and the New Federal Regulations, Phoenix, AZ, October 23, 2016.

National Congress of American Indians Mid-Year Session, “ICWA Litigation Update,” panel with Acting Asst. Secretary Larry Roberts, Elizabeth Appel, Sarah Kastelic, and David Simmons, Spokane, WA, July 28, 2016.

National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, ICWA and the New Regulations, Monterey, CA, July 19, 2016.

Tribal-State Court Forum National Convening, Keynote: Tribal Jurisdiction and Children, Los Angeles, CA, June 2, 2016.

Washington State Bar Association 28th Annual Indian Law Seminar, ICWA Litigation Update, Seattle, WA, May 12, 2016.

University of Oklahoma Indigenous Peoples, Law, and Power Symposium, ICWA Challenges and New Guidelines, Norman, OK, April 15, 2016.

Federal Bar Association Indian Law Conference, ICWA Challenges and New Guidelines, Phoenix, AZ, April 7, 2016.

National Indian Child Welfare Association Annual Conference, Working with State

Court Judges in ICWA Cases, Minneapolis, MN, April 5, 2016.

20th Annual Tribal-State ICWA Conference, Keynote: ICWA and Social Media, Warm Springs, OR, October 21, 2015.

4th Annual Tribal Healing to Wellness Court Enhancement Training, ICWA and American Indian Military Families, Albuquerque, NM, September 9, 2015.

National Indian Child Welfare Association Annual Conference, Sharing Strategies: Intratribal Coordination and Cooperation in State ICWA Cases, April 20, 2015.

Michigan Association of Treatment Court Professionals Annual Meeting, ICWA and Treatment Courts: What Family Courts Can Learn from Treatment Courts, Novi, MI, March 24, 2015.

National Summit on Courts and the Military, “Native Servicemembers, Veterans, and the Indian Child Welfare Act,” Ft. Benning, GA, March 5, 2015.

Federal Bar Association, Native Servicemembers, Veterans, and the Indian Child Welfare Act, Webinar, January 28, 2015.

University of Missouri School of Law, “Adoptive Couple v. Baby Girl: Unexamined Issues in Family Law,” Columbia, MO, October 29, 2014.

Law and Society Annual Conference, ICWA and The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: Two Federal Laws in State Courts, Minneapolis, MN, May 31, 2014.

18th Annual Tribal Law & Governance Conference, University of Kansas Law School, ICWA and Ethics: The *In re T.S.W.* Case, Lawrence, KS, March 7, 2014.

American Association of Law Schools Annual Meeting, Hot Topic –*Adoptive Couple v. Baby Girl*: At the Intersection of Family Law, Indian Law, and Civil Rights, New York, NY, January 4, 2014

12th Annual Family Law Institute, Institute of Continuing Legal Education, The Indian Child Welfare Act and *Adoptive Couple v. Baby Girl*, Plymouth, MI, November 15, 2013

United States Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Michigan, The Indian Child Welfare Act after *Adoptive Couple v. Baby Girl*, Detroit, MI, November 12, 2013.

Michigan Tribal-State Indian Child Welfare Judicial Roundtable, Case Update: *Adoptive Couple v. Baby Girl*, Grand Traverse Resort, October 28, 2013.

National American Indian Court Judges Association Annual Conference, “Models of Hope – Tribal-State Indian Child Improvement Efforts in Michigan,” Cabazon, CA October 11, 2013.

Law and Society Annual Conference, Monitoring Change: ICWA and Collaborative Court Monitoring Projects, Boston, MA, May 31, 2013.

Indian Law Day, Storytelling, ICWA, and the Baby Girl Case, University of Michigan Law School, Ann Arbor, MI, April 5, 2013.

Indian Law Conference, Minnesota CLE, The Indian Child Welfare Act: National Trends in Case Law, Treasure Island Resort & Casino, May 18, 2012

Federal Bar Association Indian Law Conference, Incorporating ICWA into State Law, Pojoaque Pueblo, New Mexico, April, 20, 2012.

Invisible Constitutions, The Vanishing Indian Returns: The Supreme Court's Use of Narrative and Historical Fictions in Federal Indian Law, St. Louis University School of Law, St. Louis, MO, March 2, 2012.

Land, Laches and Legal Battles, The New Laches, Syracuse University College of Law, Syracuse, NY, Nov. 18, 2011.

American Association of Law Schools Annual Meeting, Michigan and the Indian Child Welfare Act: A Case Study, San Francisco, CA, January 8th, 2011.

Law and Society Annual Meeting, The Vanishing Indian Returns: The Supreme Court's Use of History in American Indian Law Cases, Chicago, Illinois, May 26, 2010.

Federal Bar Association Indian Law Conference, Advising - and Suing - Tribal Council Officials: On the Scope of Tribal Official Immunity, Santa Fe, New Mexico, April 3, 2009

Law and Society Annual Meeting, The New Laches: Creating Title Where None Existed, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, June 1, 2008

American Indian Law and Literature Conference, Cooper's THE PIONEERS and *Johnson v. M'Intosh*: Legal Fictions of 1823, East Lansing, MI, October, 2007

National Congress of American Indians Mid-Year Conference, Litigation Strategies in Indian Land Claims Cases, Anchorage, AK, June, 2007

Legal Teaching Experience

August 2021-Present
Director of the MSU Legal Clinic

Michigan State University
College of Law
East Lansing, Michigan

August 2016-Present
Director, Indian Law Clinic

- Indian Law Clinic, Fall 2016-Present
- American Indian Children and the Law, 2009-present
- Indigenous Law and Policy Center Class (Experiential), Fall 2006-Spring 2015
- NNALSA Moot Court, 2011-2015

July 2006 – June 2019

Staff Attorney, Indigenous Law and Policy Center

August 2005-June 2006

Indian Law Fellow, Indigenous Law and Policy Center

December, 2023-September, 2026

Developer & Instructor

LSI-5693 Indian Child Welfare Act & Family Law
In Indian Country

Oklahoma University
College of Law
Masters of Legal Studies
Program

June 2018, July 2020, July 2025

Professor, Indian Child Welfare Act Summer Class

University of Montana
School of Law
Missoula, Montana

Other Legal Experience

July 2016 – Present

Consultant

The Whitener Group
Olympia, WA

Selected Projects:

Tribal Justice Support, BIA, Tribal Court Assessments
NCJFCJ ICWA Benchbook
Saint Regis Mohawk Family Court Development

August 2026-Present

Author/Editor

ICWA-aki Newsletter

Sept. 2007 – August 2024

Editor

Turtle Talk Law Blog

December 2017-January 2019

Consultant

Clause Law
Washington, D.C.

August, 2003 – June, 2004

Senior Law Clerk

May, 2003 – August, 2003

Intern

Legal Services of South
Central Michigan
Lansing, MI

Education

Michigan State University College of Law

Juris Doctor, June, 2005

Magna Cum Laude

Recipient: Dean King Scholarship

Recipient: Indian Law Certificate

Vice President, Native American Law Student Association (2004-2005)

East Lansing, Michigan

Hollins College
Bachelor of Arts – History with Honors, May, 1999
Magna Cum Laude
Phi Beta Kappa

Roanoke, Virginia

Service

2024-present Uniform Law Commission, ICWA Drafting Committee, *Reporter*

2011-present American Indian Studies Program, Michigan State University, *Affiliated Faculty*

2009-present Michigan Court Improvement Program’s Statewide Task Force, *Appointed Member*

2009-present Michigan Court Improvement Program’s Statewide Task Force, Sub-committee Tribal Court Relations, *Appointed Member*

2023-2025 Wyoming Indian Child Welfare Act Taskforce

2022-2024 Uniform Law Commission, ICWA Study Committee, *Reporter*

2014-2018 Michigan State University College of Law Admissions Committee

2013-2015 American Association of Law Schools Section on Indian Nations and Indigenous Peoples, *Executive Committee Member*

2007-2010 Federal Bar Association Indian Law Section Newsletter, *Features Editor*

Awards

2024 Practitioner Award, Litigation Section, American Association of Law Schools

2023 Indian Child Welfare Act Champion Award, Pascua Yaqui Tribe

2022-2023 Outstanding Service Award, National American Indian Court Judges Association

2021 Tecumseh Peace Keeping Award, Michigan Indian Law Section, Michigan State Bar

2020 M. Shanara Gilbert Human Rights Award “Organization” Category for the Indigenous Law and Policy Center, Society of American Law Teachers

2019 Tara Blair Champion of Indian Law Award, Northwest Indian Bar Association

2017 Nominee for Significant Contribution in Indian Law Award, Native American Bar Association-Washington, D.C. Chapter

2016 Adrian Public Schools Outstanding Alumni Award; Up and Coming Alumni Award

2012 Michigan State University Curricular Service-Learning and Civic Engagement Award

Affiliations

State Bar of Michigan, P69451, admitted June 2006

United States District Court: Western District of Michigan, admitted September 2015

United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, admitted September, 2016

United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, admitted October, 2018

United States Supreme Court, admitted May, 2022