Symposium on the Settlement of Indian Reserved Water Rights Claims
Held Virtually
August 24-25, 2021

Presenter Biographies

Alice Walker
Alice Walker is the managing partner in the law firm of Meyer, Walker & Walker, P.C., located in Boulder, Colorado. Ms. Walker’s practice is limited to the representation of Indian tribes in all aspects of federal Indian law, concentrating primarily on the litigation and negotiation of natural resource disputes, treaty rights, water rights, regulatory issues, and matters related to tribal gaming and federal acknowledgment. Ms. Walker received her B.A. degree from Earlham College in 1987, her M.S. from Georgetown University in 1992, and her J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center in 1992. Ms. Walker is admitted to practice law in the State of Colorado, the United States Supreme Court, and various other federal courts throughout the country.

Arianne Singer
Arianne Singer is the General Counsel for the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission, where she advises and represents the Commission in interstate litigation and negotiations related to eight interstate stream compacts. In her previous position as Deputy General Counsel for the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer (OSE) she had primary responsibility for litigation and negotiation of Indian water rights claims, including the implementation of the Aamodt, Taos Pueblo, and Navajo Nation water rights settlements. She continues to represent the State in the litigation and settlement negotiations of water rights claims of other Pueblos and tribes in adjudications throughout the State, as well as the ongoing appellate proceedings on the Navajo Nation’s water rights. A graduate of Drew University in New Jersey and the University of New Mexico School of Law, she practiced at Sutin, Thayer & Browne, P.C prior to joining the OSE in 2001.

Bidtah Becker
Bidtah Becker has dedicated her career to the Navajo Nation and its natural resources. She is currently serving as an Associate Attorney for the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority where she focuses on land and water issues. Prior to this position, she had the honor of serving as the Director of the Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources from May 2013 to January 2019, as an appointee of President Begaye and Vice-President Nez, after serving 11 years as an attorney for the Navajo Nation focusing on water rights and natural resource issues. Continuing her deep interest and passion for water, she serves on the Leadership Team for the Water and Tribes Initiative in the Colorado River Basin where she co-leads the Universal Access to Clean Drinking Water in Indian Country (www.tribalcleanwater.org). She also serves as a Commissioner on the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission, as an appointee of Governor Lujan Grisham, and on the Navajo Nation Water Rights Commission, as an appointee of Speaker Damon. Ms. Becker is equally passionate about supporting artists and serves as a Trustee for the Institute of American Indian Arts and Culture (IAIA), as an appointee of President Obama. Ms. Becker is a member of the Navajo Nation and lives in Fort Defiance on the Navajo Nation with her husband and their two children.
**Burke Griggs**
Burke Griggs is an associate professor of law at Washburn University, where he teaches property, natural resources law, and legal history. Prior to joining the Washburn faculty, he represented the State of Kansas in federal and interstate water matters, most prominently *Kansas v. Nebraska*, an original action before the Supreme Court to enforce the Republican River Compact. He also served as counsel of record for Kansas in the negotiations over the Kickapoo Tribe reserved water rights settlement. He is affiliated with the Woods Institute for the Environment and the Bill Lane Center for the American West, both at Stanford, and is a Trustee of the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation. Mr. Griggs earned his B.A. from Stanford, his Ph.D from Yale (both in history), and his J.D. from the University of Kansas.

**David Barfield**
David Barfield is a water resources engineer and consultant, trained at the University of Kansas, earning a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering in 1978 and a Master of Science in Water Resources Engineering in 1991. Upon graduation, David worked for three years in consulting in Minnesota and three years as a water resources engineer in a developing nation of southern Africa. David spent most of his career working for Kansas Department of Agriculture’s Division of Water Resources, starting in 1984. In 2007, David was appointed chief engineer. In this capacity, David directed the staff of the Division in fulfilling their broad responsibility over the state’s water resources including administration of four interstate water compacts, more than 30,000 active water rights, and the safety of thousands of dams and other water structures. David’s accomplishments as Chief Engineer included supporting passage and implementation of legislative initiatives to extend the useful life of the Ogallala aquifer, leading Kansas’ efforts to protect Kansas’ entitlements under the Republican River Compact, negotiating agreements with Colorado implementing the U.S. Supreme Court’s Final Decree on the Arkansas River, negotiating the State first tribal water right settlement, and more ([https://kwrconsulting.com/about/](https://kwrconsulting.com/about/)). David retired from state service on March 1, 2020 and during June 2020 began working as a consultant, specializing in water rights matters and assisting groundwater management districts in implementing enhanced water management.

**Elizabeth (Liz) Klein**
Liz Klein, Senior Counselor to the Secretary of Interior, is an experienced attorney who specializes in clean energy, climate change, and environmental issues. She has previously served at the Department of the Interior (DOI), most recently as associate deputy secretary as well as principal deputy assistant secretary in the Office of Policy, Management and Budget. Before then, Liz was an attorney at Latham & Watkins specializing in energy and environmental law issues, and a law clerk at the Department of Justice’s Environment and Natural Resources Division and its Environmental Enforcement Section. She graduated from the George Washington University with an economics degree and received her JD from American University’s Washington College of Law.

**Heather Tanana**
Heather Tanana (JD/MPH) is a citizen of the Navajo Nation and Assistant Research Professor and Wallace Stegner Fellow at the S.J. Quinney College of Law - University of Utah. She is also Associate Faculty with the Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health, where she works with the Center's Training team on developing and teaching Institute courses. Heather practiced law for several years before completing a clerkship with U.S. District Court Judge David Nuffer and joining the world of academia. Her career has been driven by her personal commitment to serving her people. She chairs the board of the Urban Indian Center of Salt Lake and volunteers her time on other working groups to promote diversity in the legal field.
JAY WEINER
Jay Weiner is an administrative law judge in the Office of Administrative Hearings of the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. Previously, Jay spent nine years as a staff attorney for the Montana Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission negotiating water rights settlements with tribes and federal enclaves claiming reserved water rights in Montana. He also spent nine years as an assistant attorney general in the Montana Attorney General’s Office representing the State of Montana in the Montana Water Court, including on the decree of compacts settling reserved water rights claims. In his private capacity, Jay is of counsel to the majority-Indian owned firm Rosette, LLP, and represents tribes on water and natural resources issues, including water rights settlements.

JENNIFER FROZENA
Jennifer Frozena is an attorney with the Department of the Interior's Office of the Solicitor, in the Division of Water Resources. She began her career representing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service on hydropower relicensing issues, and since 2006 she has been located in Portland, Oregon, representing primarily the Bureau of Indian Affairs on issues related to hydropower relicensing, Indian irrigation, and reserved federal water rights. She has worked on water and irrigation issues impacting the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes since 2006, and was a member of the federal team that helped negotiate the Tribes' water rights compact. Jennifer is a proud Cheesehead hailing from Wisconsin; she attended Marquette University for undergrad and received her law degree from the University of Oregon.

JENNIFER WALTERS
Jennifer Walters, P.E is the Project Manager for the Pojoaque Basin Regional Water System (PBRWS) project and manager of the Pojoaque Engineering Division. Jennifer started working on the PBRWS project for Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) in April of 2018. Before starting with BOR and joining the PBRWS project team, Jennifer spent her career as a Water & Wastewater Engineer working to serve New Mexico communities since 2004. Her work experience includes water distribution, water storage facilities, wastewater treatment plants, wastewater collection systems and pretreatment facilities. Jennifer was previously a Project Manager at Wilson and Company where she worked with several municipalities.

JOSHUA MANN
Joshua Mann has worked as a policy analyst for the Secretary’s Indian Water Rights Office (SIWRO) since 2018. In that role, he serves as SIWRO’s liaison to Indian water right settlement negotiations and implementations throughout the West and advises the Department on policy matters. Prior to that, he was an attorney-adviser in the Department of the Interior’s Southwest Regional Solicitor’s Office from 2014 to 2018 and served as attorney team member on four Indian water settlement teams. He worked for the Bureau of Reclamation from 2010 through 2014, and as a Special Assistant Attorney General for the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission from 2006 through 2010.

JUSTIN RECORD
Justin Record, served on the Navajo-Utah Water Right Federal Negotiation Team and the Ourey Ute Implementation Team for 7 years. While on these teams, he has helped facilitate value planning studies, water quality analyzes, economic analyzes, and settlement assessment reports. With the congressional approval of the Navajo-Utah Settlement, Justin recently was named the chair for the Federal Implementation Team. He has worked for the Bureau of Reclamation for 17 years and currently oversee the Program Development Group in the Provo, Utah Area Office. This group is
responsible for Native American technical assistance, general planning activities, salinity control activities, and project management efforts for Reclamation in all of Utah and southwestern Wyoming. Prior to his current position, Justin managed Reclamation water rights for this same area for 13 years. While managing water rights, he represented Reclamation's interest before the State Engineer, helped managed water disputes between federal projects, and led technical teams for large water contracts (including the one for the Utah Lake Powell Pipeline). Justin started his career with 4 years of experience working in engineering consulting firms and has received a master's degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering at Brigham Young University. He has a Professional Engineer license in California, Utah, and Wyoming. He hails from the Redding Area of Northern California and enjoys various hobbies including beekeeping, photography, and aquariums. He is the proud father of 2 girls and 3 boys and has been married 24 years.

**Kiel Weaver**

Kiel Weaver serves as the Republican Staff Director for the House Subcommittee on Water, Oceans and Wildlife. Prior to the Subcommittee, Weaver served as the Associate Deputy Secretary at the Department of the Interior for the last two years and as House Speaker Paul Ryan’s energy and environment policy advisor for the prior two years. Weaver also served as the top Republican staff on the House Water and Power Subcommittee from 2005-2017.

**Lester Randall**

Lester Randall is the Chairman of the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas (KTIK), a federally-recognized tribe with over 1600 enrolled members. The KTIK reservation is located in a rural part of the state (the closest Walmart is almost a 30-minute drive). With a background in business, he has led a revitalization of his community: a new administration building, increased casino revenue, and a community garden that provides fresh fruits and vegetables to families. By focusing on children and families, his administration has improved access to and utilization of health care, infrastructure needs, and partnerships internally and externally to support the well-being of the community. He has placed electronic messaging in public spaces around the reservation to improve communication, and started using video messages to update and connect with tribal members. He recently added a KTIK museum space to the administration building, where the history and culture of the tribe can be shared. Lester is shifting the focus to the future of the community while respecting and honoring the past.

**Matthew Muirragui**

Matthew Muirragui (Mer-ah-gee) joined the House Natural Resources Committee in 2013. Currently, he is the staff director for the Water, Oceans and Wildlife Subcommittee, which is the Subcommittee with primary jurisdiction over Indian water settlements in the House of Representatives. Since joining the Committee, a key priority has been securing federal funding and congressional approval for Indian water rights settlements. In 2016, Matthew helped author Chairman Grijalva's report entitled "Water Delayed is Water Denied," which discussed the benefits of Indian water rights settlements, the challenges associated with the "Bishop Process," and the need for congressional approval of the then-pending Blackfeet and Pechanga Indian water rights settlements. Prior to joining the Natural Resources Committee, Matthew worked on congressional campaigns in the west and studied government and environmental policy at the College of William and Mary.
Norman Johnson has served as Director of the Natural Resources Division of the Utah Attorney General’s Office since 2002. He became an assistant attorney general in 1994 and has advised all Utah Department of Natural Resources’ agencies on legal matters, concentrating on water issues. He represents the State Engineer and works extensively on Colorado River matters. He has helped negotiate resolution of federal reserved water right claims and argued cases before Utah appellate courts. He worked as legal counsel for Western States Water Council from 1982 to 1994. He earned his J.D. from the S.J. Quinney College of Law in 1982. He is married, has four married children, and he can juggle.

Pamela Williams is the Director of the Secretary’s Indian Water Rights Office in the Department of the Interior (DOI). She has held this position for over 13 years and has been with the office since the early 1990s. Her duties are exclusively focused on Indian water rights issues and include coordinating the various Interior interests involved in Indian water settlements and providing policy advice to officials at the highest levels of the DOI. Ms. Williams oversees, coordinates, and manages Federal negotiation, implementation, and assessment teams that DOI has in place throughout the western United States. During her tenure with DOI, Ms. Williams has worked on the majority of enacted Indian water rights settlements, giving her a unique perspective on the subject. Ms. Williams holds degrees in Anthropology and Native American Affairs from the University of California, Berkeley. She earned her J.D. from the University of California, Hastings College of Law. Before joining the DOI, she worked as an attorney for the California Indian Services, the Colorado River Indian Tribes and the Navajo Nation.

Peter Chestnut is a shareholder in Chestnut Law Offices, P.A. in Albuquerque, New Mexico. His practice emphasizes Indian Affairs and Water Law for Pueblos. He represents the Pueblo de San Ildefonso in the Aamodt case since 1981, including negotiation of the Settlement Agreement which was approved by Congress and signed by eight governments.

Rhonda Swaney, a CSKT tribal member, is the Managing Attorney for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. She has served in this role since 2014 and has been in the CSKT Legal Department since 2006. Rhonda supervises a Legal Department staff of 15 people, including 11 staff attorneys. As Managing Attorney, Rhonda has been involved in tribal, federal, and state administrative and judicial litigation, and has dealt with numerous jurisdictional issues. Rhonda also provides legal advice to the Tribal Council, as well as all Tribal government agencies. Before becoming an attorney, Rhonda served as Chairwoman of the CSKT Tribal Council. She has also served as the Department Head for the Tribes’ Natural Resources Department. Prior to her Tribal government service, Rhonda had worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs at the Northwest Regional Office in Portland. Rhonda has a long history of working on water rights issues. From her time on the Tribal Council to her time as the Natural Resources Department Head, and now as Managing Attorney, Rhonda was a guiding member of the Tribes’ Water Rights Negotiating Team who worked diligently for years to accomplish approval by the Montana Water Rights Compact Commission.
RICHARD HUGHES  
Richard Hughes is a partner in the Santa Fe office of the law firm of Rothstein Donatelli LLP. A graduate of the University of Virginia (B.A., 1967) and the Yale Law School (LL.B., 1971), Mr. Hughes spent 8 years on the Navajo Indian Reservation with DNA–People’s Legal Services, first as a staff attorney in Shiprock, then as Director of Litigation, before moving to Albuquerque to help found the firm of Luebben & Hughes, whose practice was almost exclusively in the field of federal Indian law. In 1988 he joined the Rothstein law firm in Santa Fe as a partner, and started the firm’s Indian law practice. He has since continued to carry on a practice focused primarily on Indian law, tribal representation and complex civil litigation. He has played a leading role in litigation, legislation and negotiations in the area of Indian gaming in New Mexico, and he continues to be involved in a wide variety of land, water, jurisdiction and other Indian law issues for tribal clients in New Mexico and elsewhere. He is currently general counsel to one New Mexico Pueblo, and special counsel to four others on various land, water and jurisdictional issues. The author of several law review articles on Indian law subjects, and co-author of a book on Pueblo land in New Mexico, Mr. Hughes has also been frequently called on to speak at Indian law conferences.

RYAN RUSCHE  
Ryan has had the privilege of working for the advancement of Indian Country for nearly all of his career. After completing his education he served as an attorney for the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation for a number of years. Ryan currently works for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) of the Flathead Reservation where he has been proud to be part of the legal and water rights teams that worked on the CSKT-Montana Water Rights Compact which was ratified by the Montana Water Rights Protection Act in December 2020.

SCOTT BERGSTROM  
Scott Bergstrom serves as the Assistant Solicitor overseeing Indian water, irrigation, and hydropower issues for the Department of the Interior (DOI) in Washington, DC. He joined DOI through the Solicitor’s Honors Program in 1994, joined the Division of Indian Affairs’ Water and Power Branch in 1995, and became the Assistant Solicitor who manages the Branch in 2007. In 2016, the Office of the Solicitor established a new Division of Water Resources and moved this Branch - now named the Branch of Indian Water Resources - into the new Division along with a Branch composed of attorneys focused on Bureau of Reclamation issues. His work has primarily focused on water rights and related fishery and environmental issues in places such as the Klamath and Rio Grande Basins, with issues more recently arising throughout the Great Plains along with more traditional areas across the West. From 2001 through 2004, he also served as the Deputy Director of the Secretary’s Indian Water Rights Office, which oversees the negotiation and implementation of Indian water rights settlements. He graduated summa cum laude from Kansas State University in 1991 with a B.S. in Agriculture (Park Resources Management) and received his J.D. in 1994 from the University of Kansas.

STANLEY POLLACK  
Stanley Pollack has represented the Navajo Nation since 1985 in all matters affecting the tribe’s water resources. Although he has been “retired” since 2017, he is still busy working on Navajo water rights. He negotiated the Navajo Nation San Juan River Basin in New Mexico Water Rights Settlement, ratified by Congress in 2009 and the Navajo Utah Water Rights Settlement Act approved by Congress last December. He is presently engaged in negotiations of the Navajo Nation’s water rights claims in Arizona, which have proven elusive since 1993. In his free time, he enjoys rafting the Colorado River and other Western rivers.
Steven Moore is a 1979 graduate of the University of Colorado Law School, who joined the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) in 1983 as a staff attorney. As a NARF staff attorney, Moore has represented Indian tribes in asserting, litigating and settling Indian reserved water rights, including the Nez Perce Tribe in Idaho, the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians of California, the Tule River Tribe of California, and the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas. Moore has also represented tribes in the protection of Native American sacred lands in Montana, Hawaii, Wyoming, Texas, and California; the repatriation of human remains in Colorado and Nebraska from museums and other institutions and the protection of unmarked Native graves in Colorado; and the religious use of peyote by members of the Native American Church and protection of access to peyote on private lands in Texas.

Tanya Trujillo, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, Department of the Interior, is a water lawyer with more than 20 years of experience working on complex natural resources management issues and interstate and transboundary water agreements. She most recently worked as a project director with the Colorado River Sustainability Campaign. Before then, she served as the Executive Director of the Colorado River Board of California. She has served as Senior Counsel to the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and as Counselor to the Assistant Secretary for Water and Science at the DOI. A native New Mexican, Tanya attended Stanford University and the University of Iowa College of Law.