



Native American Voting Rights Coalition

Midwestern Field Hearing

September 5, 2017

8:00AM-5:00PM

Bismarck Event Center/Tree Meeting Rooms

Matt Campbell

Matt Campbell is an enrolled member of the Native Village of Gambell in Alaska and is a Staff Attorney with the Native American Rights Fund. Previously, he was an attorney with Cuddy & McCarthy, LLP, in New Mexico, focusing his practice on Indian law, education, water law, and general civil litigation. He clerked for the Arizona Court of Appeals, Division One, with now retired Judge Patrick Irvine. He represents the plaintiffs in *Brakebill v. Jaeger*, a Voting Rights Act challenge to North Dakota's restrictive voter identification law. He received his Juris Doctorate degree from the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University and his Bachelor of Arts degree from Fort Lewis College. In 2005, Matt attended the Pre-Law Summer Institute for American Indians and Alaska Natives ("PLSI"), and in 2006, served as a tutor for PLSI. He is licensed to practice in Colorado and New Mexico.

Gary Collins

Gary Collins is an enrolled member of the Northern Arapaho Tribe and was raised on the Wind River Indian Reservation in Wyoming. He was Chairman of the Arapaho Tribe when the "Big Horn Water Rights" case was before the U.S. Supreme Court, and served as the Shoshone and Arapaho Tribes Water Engineer for over eight years administering the Tribal Water Code. Previously, he served as the Tribal Liaison for the Arapaho Tribe within the State of Wyoming's Governor's Planning Office. He is the Vice President of the MNI SOSE InterTribal Water Rights Coalition and a founding member of the Indigenous Water Network, and recently joined the Wind River Job Corp in Riverton, Wyoming as Community Business Liaison. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology from the University of Wyoming.

Carol Davis

Carol Davis is an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa. She was born, raised, and currently resides on the reservation. She was on the founding tribal committee that established Turtle Mountain Community College and was the Academic Dean for seventeen years. She worked for North Dakota State University in the EPSCoR Program as Tribal College Liaison where she helped to create a pathway for American Indian high school and tribal college students from North Dakota reservations into science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) careers. In 2013, she helped found the



Tribal Nations Research Group which aims to become a vehicle of social change for the Turtle Mountain reservation through quality based research.

Lynn Davis

Lynn Davis is an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa. He earned a teaching degree from the University of North Dakota and a Master's Degree in Public Administration in 1989 from the University of South Dakota. Lynn had a long career as a public servant. He was the Hospital Administrator at the Quentin Burdick Health Care Facility on the Turtle Mountain Reservation for 25 years until his retirement in 2002. He served for 15 years on the Belcourt School District #7's School Board, which is an elected position on the Turtle Mountain Reservation. He currently serves on the Tribal Election Board on the Turtle Mountain Reservation and on the Board of Directors for Catholic Charities of ND.

Donita Loudner

Donita Loudner is an enrolled member of the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe in South Dakota. She serves as one of the three members of the Buffalo County Commission.

Timothy Purdon

Timothy Purdon is a Partner with the Bismarck office of Robins Kaplan LLP, where he serves as Co-Chair of the American Indian Law and Policy Group and Co-Chair of the Government and Internal Investigations Group. He served as United States Attorney for the District of North Dakota from 2010-2015. In that role, he was the chief federal law enforcement official in North Dakota with responsibility for prosecuting all federal crimes in North Dakota and defending the United States in civil litigation. In 2014, Attorney General Eric Holder tapped him to be a member of the select Attorney General's Advisory Committee, which advises the Attorney General on criminal justice matters and serves as the voice of the United States Attorney community in setting Department of Justice policies. In 2013, Attorney General Holder appointed him the Chair of the Attorney General's Native American Issues subcommittee, which is responsible for making policy recommendations to the Attorney General regarding public safety and legal issues that impact tribal communities. In that capacity, he represented the Department of Justice in testimony before the United States Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. He holds a Juris Doctorate degree from Hamline University School of Law, a Bachelor of Arts in English from Minnesota State University, and an Associate of Arts degree from North Dakota State College of Science.

Oliver (OJ) Semans, Sr. (Regional Hearing Chairman, Four Directions)

Oliver (OJ) Semans is an enrolled member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, or Sicangu Oyate. He is the Executive Director of Four Directions, Inc., which he formed with his wife Barb after leading the historic Native vote project in South Dakota's 2002 U.S. Senate race. For that effort, the 21st Century Democrats awarded Barb and OJ the 2003 Paul Wellstone Grassroots Award. Since then, Barb and OJ



have continued to lead nonpartisan Native voter engagement, empowerment, protection and voting rights work across the country. In 2005, he testified before the National Commission on the Voting Rights Act before the reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act in 2006, and in 2014 he testified again before the National Commission on the Voting Rights Act. He filed a friend-of-the-court brief in *Shelby County v. Holder*, a challenge to the coverage formula for Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. He has been active in Voting Rights Act litigation in Nevada, Montana, and South Dakota. Working with Minnesota Tribes in 2014, he helped establish satellite voting offices on the three largest Indian reservations without litigation. Barb and OJ have seven grown children. They live in South Antelope on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

Erica Shelby

Community organizer on the Flathead Reservation. (Last minute addition. Bio forthcoming.)

Sharon Stewart-Peregoy

Sharon Stewart-Peregoy is an enrolled member of the Crow Tribe. From 2008-2016 she served as a Democratic State Senator in the Montana House of Representatives. She was elected to Senate District 21, representing Crow Agency, Montana. She received a BS from Montana State University and a Masters in Education from City University at Seattle. She is currently in the Executive Branch of the Crow Tribe as the Research/Development Specialist for the Office of Economic Development. From 2006-2007 she was the Director of the Crow Tribal Health Department.

Gerald Stiffarm

Gerald J. "BEARSHIRT" Stiffarm is an enrolled member of the White Clay Nation of the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation. In 1972, he was seated on the 1972 Harlem School Board. Since then, BEARSHIRT has facilitated volunteer voting efforts for forty-five years. The majority of that involvement has been with the Snake Butte Voter Coalition, a recognized legislative extension of the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council. The Snake Butte Voter Coalition aims to address the "three neutral E's" - Encouragement for the voter to register; Educating the voter; and Enticing that voter to actually VOTE.

Professor Gerald Webster

Gerald Webster is a Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Wyoming, where he has taught since August 2007. He served as Department Chair from August 2007 until August 2015. Professor Webster is widely published, including books and journal articles on political geography and elections. He has served as a consulting or testifying expert for the United States Department of Justice, the Native American Rights Fund, the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, and state and local legislative bodies in redistricting and numerous voting rights cases. His voting rights work in Indian Country includes *Brakebill v. Jaeger* (the North Dakota voter ID case), *Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission v. San Juan County, Utah*, *Poor Bear v. Jackson County, South Dakota*, and *Wandering Medicine v. McColloch*. He holds a Ph.D. in Geography from the



University of Kentucky, a Master of Science degree in Geography from Western Washington University, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Colorado.

Patrick Yawakie

Patrick Yawakie, friend of Spotted Eagle, is an enrolled member of Zuni Pueblo and Turtle Mountain Anishinaabe. He is in the Tribal Governance and Administration Bachelor's degree program and Salish Kootenai College on the Flathead Reservation in Western Montana. He is a husband and a father to 3. Patrick worked for the last election cycle for House of Representatives seat and Presidential elections for the Flathead Reservation's Get Out The Vote focused on the Native Community.