



## **Native American Voting Rights Coalition**

### **Desert Southwest Field Hearing**

**January 11, 2018**

**8:00AM-5:00PM**

**ASU College of Law, Great Hall**

#### **Brian Curley Chambers**

Brian Curley-Chambers is a citizen of the Navajo Nation. He is of the Bitter Water Clan [Todichiinii], born for the Water's Edge clan [Tabaahi]. He is a third year law student who worked on the Native Vote – Election Protection Project for four semesters. He spent two semesters in the Election Protection research cluster gathering and analyzing data, and then two additional semesters in the Indian Legal Clinic analyzing data and assisting with the 2016 Native Vote – Election Protection Report. He also served as a Native Vote Volunteer during the 2016 General Election.

#### **Norm DeWeaver**

Norm DeWeaver has been a user and an analyst of Census Bureau data on the American Indian and Alaska Native population since the 1980 decennial census. As the National Representative for the Indian and Native American Employment and Training Coalition from the late 1970's through the mid 2000's, he closely followed data on the Native workforce used to allocate funding for several major federal workforce development programs. He was a long time participant in a special Census Bureau program to distribute population data to the staffs of Indian tribes, Alaska Native organizations and urban Indian groups nationally. He currently serves as an advisor on Census issues for several tribes and tribal organizations.

#### **Sarah Gonski**

Sarah Gonski is an attorney with Perkins Coie. Her practice centers on voting rights, election law and constitutional issues. She has experience representing voters, campaigns, political committees and others with an interest in the political process in federal and state courts at both the trial and appellate levels. She has participated in numerous emergency temporary restraining orders (TROs) and preliminary injunction proceedings to enjoin election laws immediately prior to and during elections and has experience with election recounts. Sarah also maintains an active pro bono practice, and has successfully represented a prison inmate alleging civil rights violations and resettled refugees that were facing eviction.



## **Patty Hansen**

Patty Hansen currently serves as the Coconino County Recorder. She was elected to that position in 2012 and re-elected in 2016. She has worked in the field of elections and voter registration administration for over 30 years. She began her election/voter registration administrative career in 1987 when she was appointed to be the Deputy Election Commissioner for Lancaster County, Nebraska. In 1991, she was appointed by the Governor of Nebraska, to be the Lancaster County Election Commissioner and served in that position until 1999. In 1999, she accepted an Elections Specialist position with Ramsey County, Minnesota. During her years in Minnesota, she also worked in Hennepin County as an Elections Specialist and as an Elections Administrator for the Minnesota Secretary of State's Office. She became the Elections Administrator for Coconino County, Arizona in June, 2003 and served in that position until elected to be the county recorder. She is also the immediate past president of the Arizona County Records Association and is a Certified Elections/Registrar Administrator through Auburn University and the Election Center. During the past 30 years, she has been a strong voice for striking down barriers to voting and expanding the voting franchise.

## **Claude Jackson**

Claude Jackson, member of the Gila River Indian Community and part Hopi and Mexican-American, was born and raised in Phoenix, Arizona. He has a Bachelor's of Arts Degree in English from Arizona State University and is a graduate from the University of Denver School of Law. Has practiced primarily with his tribe as a prosecutor, civil attorney and criminal defense. He also served as a judge pro tem for his tribe in 2008. He now is the Director of the Gila River Indian Community Defense Services Office.

## **The Honorable Verlon Jose**

Vice-Chairman Verlon M. Jose is an enrolled member of the Tohono O'odham Nation, from Tecolote Community in the Chukut Kuk District. He was elected as the Vice Chairman of the Tohono O'odham Nation in May of 2015 to a four year term. In 2005, he was elected as a Legislative Council Representative to the Tohono O'odham Nation representing the Chukut Kuk District. He served two four year terms on the Legislative Council where he served as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Legislative Council. In 2011, he was elected as Chairman of the Chukut Kuk District until May 2015. He served the Nation as a Tribal Court Advocate for two years; Legal Assistant for the Office of the Attorney General for eight years; as well as the Intern Tribal Planning Department. He also served on the Chukut Kuk District Council for a number of years. He was a member of the Baboquivari Unified School District No. 40 School Board where he served as Board Present for the past three years. He attended Business College in Tucson, Pima Community College, Phoenix Community College and the Tohono O'odham Community College where his primary focus was on Indian Law, Judicial Studies and History/Native American Studies.



## **Natalie Landreth**

Natalie Landreth is an enrolled member of the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma. She is a Senior Staff Attorney with the Native American Rights Fund (NARF), based in the Anchorage office. Her practice covers a wide variety of federal Indian law and election law issues, including Voting Rights Act, Constitutional voter protections, tribal jurisdiction, the Indian Child Welfare Act, subsistence hunting and fishing and cultural resource protection. She has been instrumental in establishing key voter protections in Alaska through two significant cases (*Nick v. Bethel* in 2008 and *Toyukak v. Treadwell* in 2015). She serves on the Alaska Bar Association Ethics Committee, the Child-In-Need-of-Aid Court Rules Committee, and the Alaska Court Improvement Committee (ICWA Subcommittee). She is a graduate of Harvard University (*magna cum laude*) and Harvard Law School. She served as a law clerk to the Honorable Dana Fabe, former Chief Justice of the Alaska Supreme Court.

## **Travis Lane**

Travis L. Lane graduated from The University of Arizona in 2002 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science with a minor in American Indian Studies. After graduation, Travis was hired by the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona (ITCA) as the Outreach Coordinator for the Indians Into Medicine Program to encourage American Indian youth to pursue the health careers. Since then, he has held numerous roles and responsibilities at ITCA including serving as the statewide Native Vote Coordinator. In 2014, Travis was appointed as Assistant Director of ITCA. In this capacity, he assists in overseeing the operations and policy development of the organization, which includes managing a budget of \$18 million and supervising a staff of fifty-five.

## **The Honorable Stephen Lewis**

Governor Stephen Roe Lewis is an enrolled member of the Gila River Indian Community. Governor Lewis graduated from Arizona State University with a Bachelors of Science and pursued graduate studies at John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Governor Lewis has served the Community as a Gaming Commissioner for the Gila River Gaming Commission, as a member of the Board of Directors for the Gila River Telecommunications, Inc., and as a member of the Board of Directors for the Gila River Healthcare Corporation. Governor Lewis has worked on numerous political campaigns and organizing projects throughout Indian Country including Native voter organizing and Native voter protection in 2002 and selected as an Arizona delegate and Co-Chairing the Native American Caucus for the 2012 Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina. Currently Governor Lewis serves on the Board of Directors for the Native American Rights Fund (NARF), the Executive Board for the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) and the Board of Trustee for the Heard Museum of Phoenix.



## **Joyce Lopez**

Joyce Lopez is an enrolled member of the Gila River Indian Tribe & she currently lives in the village of Komatke', 50 miles south of Phoenix. She is a founding member of the Gila River Voters Registration Board. This board was established in 1983, the objective of this board, then and now, is to increase voter registration to the members of the Gila River Indian community on issues and candidates involved in National, State, and County elections. Since its inception the Board has expanded its voting sites from two to now six polling sites. Today she still serves on the board to continue to work to increase numbers of registered voters, explain party platforms and assure members right to vote. As a board member she helped to establish the *Gila River Arizona Right to Vote*. This event is held annually to recognize the efforts of two of our Tribal members, who in 1928, went to the Maricopa County to register to vote. Although they were denied, their foresight on the importance of the right to vote is what inspires her.

## **Dan McCool**

Dan McCool is Professor Emeritus at the University of Utah. His research focuses on Indian voting and water rights, water resources, and public lands policy. His nine books include: *River Republic: The Fall and Rise of America's Rivers* (Columbia University Press 2012); *The Most Fundamental Right: Contrasting Perspectives on the Voting Rights Act* (Indiana University Press 2012, edited); *Native Vote: American Indians, the Voting Rights Act, and Indian Voting* (Cambridge University Press 2007, co-authored); and *Native Waters: Contemporary Indian Water Settlements and the Second Treaty Era* (University of Arizona Press 2002). He has served as an expert witness in nine Voting Rights Act cases.

## **Solveig Parsons**

Solveig Parsons is a third year law student in the Indian Legal Program at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law. She volunteered with the Native Vote – Election Protection Project as a field volunteer in Yavapai County during the 2016 General Election. During the Fall 2017 semester, she was a student in the Indian Legal Clinic, where she assisted in preparing the 2016 Native Vote –Election Protection Report.

## **The Honorable Roland D. Maldonado**

Former Chairman Maldonado is an enrolled member of the Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians. He served as tribal Chairman from 2014-2017. Roland is by trade a journeyman carpenter, working in the trade since 1987. Upon returning to the reservation, Roland has worked for the Housing Department, as a general maintenance employee, the tribe's farm operation as a laborer, the CHR Health Department as a non-emergency driver, The Title VI and Title XX senior service worker, Language Teacher, Cultural Preservation Director, and finally the Tribal Chairman. Roland also volunteered time with the Phoenix Indian Medical Center's Traditional Roland is currently a practicing Sun Dancer, Water pourer, Traditional Practitioner helping with native children in residential treatment facilities. Roland has been given service awards



and recognition from PIMC's Auxiliary Hospital Board as well as being nominated by Kaibab's Tribal Elders for recognition during the AICOA conference for service to his elders.

### **Steve Titla**

Steve Titla is an enrolled member of the San Carlos Apache Tribe. He is the founding partner of Titla & Parsi, PLLC. He has a Bachelor of Science Degree from Arizona State University, a Juris Doctorate from Arizona State University Law School, and a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix. He is a proud veteran of the United States Marine Corps and the Arizona National Guard. He has represented the San Carlos Apache Tribe in redistricting and voter ID matters. He has also served as legal counsel for tribal election boards. He has served as a pro-tem judge in the Tohono O'odham Tribal Court, Tohono O'odham Court of Appeals and White Mountain Apache Tribal Court. In 2013 he was appointed to a four-year term on the NAGPRA Review Committee. He was appointed to the Arizona Citizens Clean Elections Commission, and was selected as the Chair in 2017. He has participated in Arizona Native Vote—Election Protection Project since it began in 2008 as an election protection volunteer and has served as the on-call attorney during election season for the San Carlos Apache Reservation.

### **James Tucker**

James "Jim" Tucker is an attorney with Wilson Elser and serves as Pro Bono Voting Rights Counsel to NARF. He has extensive legislative and policy experience working with Native American organizations on behalf of tribal governments and Alaska Native corporations. Much of his work has focused on achieving equal access for Native peoples to the political process through lobbying, grassroots organizing, education and litigation. For much of the past decade, he has represented tribal governments and individuals in landmark voting rights cases in Alaska. Prior to joining Wilson Elser he was a senior trial attorney at the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Voting Section. In 2006, he worked for the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) to secure the 25-year reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act (VRA). He has also served as policy counsel for the ACLU's Washington Legislative Office. He is currently a member of the National Advisory Committee (NAC), a three-year appointment by the Director of the U.S. Census Bureau in which the 32 NAC members provide input on race, ethnicity and other categories for improved census operations, survey and data collection methods. His service on the NAC focuses on addressing cultural, geographic and linguistic barriers that Alaska Natives and American Indians face in participating in the decennial census and annual census surveys, as well as the historical distrust that Native Americans have toward the federal government.

### **Edison Wauneka**

Edison Wauneka is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation. He has a long history of public service, primarily focused in the area of election administration. A former tribal councilmember for the Navajo Nation, (1982-2002), he served as the Director of the



Navajo Nation Elections Administration for 14 years. He also served as the Chair of the Navajo Nation Elections Board and worked for the New Mexico Secretary of State. In 2016, he was elected to the position of Apache County Recorder.

### **Angela Willeford**

Angela Willeford is an enrolled member of the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community (SRPMIC). She currently works in the Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs for the Community, as the Inter-governmental program manager. She is a graduate of Arizona State University with a degree in Interdisciplinary Studies with a concentrations in Political Science and Communications. Since 2012 she has designed and implemented Get out the Vote (GOTV) programs for the SRPMIC. Recognizing the need to inform the community membership on both the history of voting for Native Americans in Arizona and importance of voting, she has developed a comprehensive Took Kit for GOTV efforts. She is the recipient of the 2016 Frank Harrison and Harry Austin Citizenship award by the Inter-tribal council of Arizona. She is committed to educating and developing Get Out the Vote programs for the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community.

### **Rani Williams**

Rani Williams is a member of the Walker River Paiute Tribe and was raised on the Walker River Paiute Reservation in Schurz, Nevada. She is a third year law student at Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law and is earning the Indian Legal Certificate through the Indian Legal Program. Rani was a Native Vote Election Protection volunteer during the November 8, 2016 General Election. She also participated in the Election Protection Cluster which researched and compiled the data for the Native Vote Election Protection Report. Rani is also a contributing editor to the 2016 Native Vote – Election Protection Report.