



**Native American Voting Rights Coalition
Southern California Field Hearing Agenda
February 5, 2018
9:00AM-4:00PM
California Indian Gaming Association
23rd Annual Indian Gaming Conference
TEC 11, 12, 13 Room**

Monique Castro

Monique Castro is a member of the Navajo Nation, born and raised in Los Angeles with her paternal grandparents. Castro is a psychotherapist, consultant, trainer, educator, advocate and community organizer. She is the Owner & Founder of Indigenous Circle of Wellness, a private practice providing mental wellness counseling to individuals, couples, and families. Castro is also the Co-Founder and Field Operations Manager of the California Native Vote Project based in Los Angeles. She has worked in the field of social work, education, and mental health for over 11 years. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from California State University of Los Angeles and Master of Science in Counseling Psychology from Mount Saint Mary's University.

Jacqueline De León

Jacqueline De León is an enrolled member of the Isleta Pueblo and is the Voting Rights Fellow with the Native American Rights Funds. Previously, she was an attorney at the Washington D.C. offices of WilmerHale, with a focus on antitrust and litigation. She clerked for Judge William H. Walls of the Federal District Court of New Jersey and Chief Judge Dana Fabe of the Supreme Court of Alaska. She received her Juris Doctorate from Stanford Law School and her Bachelor of Arts degree from Princeton University where she studied Philosophy.

Lupe Lopez-Donaghey

Lupe Lopez-Donaghey is a descendant of the Otomi/Yaqui Tribes. She is from Orange County, California where she was born and raised. She is from a small community nicknamed "Crow Village" due to segregation. She is the mother of 4 children whom are all enrolled members of their respective tribe and reside with her in Orange County. Lopez-Donaghey holds a B.A. in Humanities and Anthropology from CSU, Northridge. She served as a Public School Teacher for 15 years in Los Angeles County, including 5 years in Catalina Island, CA. She holds a Paralegal Degree (ABA) from an Santa Ana College, where she has her business as an LDA.



Kenneth Ramos

Kenneth (“Kenny”) Ramos is an enrolled member of the Barona Band of Mission Indians (Diegueño lipay/Kumeyaay). He was raised on the Barona Indian reservation in San Diego County and holds a BA in American Indian Studies from UCLA. After graduation, Ramos worked for LA County’s only sexual health program targeting American Indian gay/Two Spirit men and transgender individuals, the Red Circle Project at AIDS Project Los Angeles Health & Wellness Center. Ramos then returned to UCLA to direct the Retention of American Indians Now! (RAIN!) program, which works to increase graduation and retention rates of American Indian and Pacific Island undergraduates. Ramos has been involved with the American Indian Community Council of Los Angeles, the UCLA American Indian Alumni Association, United American Indian Involvement, and currently serves on the Red Circle Project’s Community Advisory Board and on Cornerstone Theater Company’s Community Council in Los Angeles. Ramos has worked with the California Native Vote Project since its inception in August 2016 and has done voter outreach and registration across the state, working as far north as Redding Rancheria. Ramos now lives back home where he is actively involved with language revitalization efforts on the Barona Reservation and at the Kumeyaay Community College, and regularly volunteers with the Barona Circle of Elders and All Tribes in Recovery. Ramos is also a company member of Native Voices at the Autry, the country’s premiere professional American Indian theater company, and of Dancing Earth, a contemporary Indigenous dance company whose work focuses on sovereignty and environmental justice. He will be seen in Native Voice’s upcoming production, *Bingo Hall*, playing in Los Angeles this March.

Professor Melissa Rogers

Professor Rogers is a professor a political science at Claremont Graduate University. She published the book *The Politics of Place and the Limits to Redistribution* and multiple research articles on economic inequality, federalism, taxation, and spending around the world. In addition to her academic role, Melissa has worked in the non-profit sector and in the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Department of State.

Professor Jean Reith Schroedel

Professor Schroedel is a political science professor at Claremont Graduate University. She has written or co-edited five books, including *Is the Fetus Person? A Comparison of Policies Across the Fifty States* that was given the APSA’s Victoria Schuck Book Award, as well as more than 40 scholarly articles. In 2017, she was awarded the Claremont Colleges Diversity in Teaching Award. Her recent research has focused on voting rights issues affecting Native Americans. Schroedel was an expert witness in the *Wandering Medicine v. McCulloch* case and did research that was used in the *Poor Bear v. Jackson County* and *Sanchez v. Cegvaske* cases.



Terria Smith

Terria Smith is an enrolled member of the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians. She is the director of Heyday's California Indian Publishing Program, known as the Berkeley Roundhouse. She is the editor of *News from Native California*, a quarterly magazine "devoted to the vibrant cultures, art, languages, histories, social justice movements, and stories of California's diverse Indian peoples." She is an undergraduate alumni of Humboldt State University and has a master's degree from the University of California Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism.

Robin Shane Thundershield

Robin Thundershield is an enrolled member of The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. He is currently the Program Coordinator for the California Native Vote Project and resides in Los Angeles County. Thundershield is an active volunteer in the Los Angeles Native American community and for organizations who support and help children who are in the foster care system. He was in the foster care system (Indian Child and Family Services) for 11 years. He was eventually placed with a Native American family, and stayed with the same family for 11 years. Thundershield's passion is for helping foster children and my Native American community. He is currently involved with the 2020 Census Complete Count Committee for Los Angeles County and is looking to assist in getting an accurate count for the Native American population in Los Angeles Country.

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.



The Honorable Charles F. Wood

Chairman Charles F. Wood is a member of the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe. He grew up on a turkey farm in Northern California. He attended the University of California at Davis (Psychology/Sociology) and the University of California at Irvine (Fine Arts/Dance). He has an AA degree from Yuba College in History/Political Science. Chairman Wood has a varied background: farm laborer; professional ballet dancer; Safety and Training Director for a national mass transit corporation; Federal and Tribally certified game warden; federal, state and tribally certified police officer rising to the rank of Administrative Lieutenant/Acting Chief of Police; and Chairman of the Chemehuevi Indian Tribal Council. Always interested in education, Chairman Wood was an occupant of Alcatraz Island and of an Army base outside of Davis, California which later became D-Q University. Mr. Wood served on the Board of Directors for D-Q University for a number of years. Chairman Wood is now in his 11th year as Chairman of the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe.