

# TRIBAL & STATE COURT JUDGES CONVENING

AUGUST 12, 2015

## Presenter Bios

**Howard G. Arnett** joined Karnopp Petersen in 1980, after working as a legal services attorney on the Navajo Indian Reservation in Arizona following law school. He has concentrated his practice in the area of Federal Indian law, especially with representation of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of

Oregon on matters involving treaty rights, tribal sovereignty and gaming. Howard has also represented other tribes in treaty rights, code development and tribal court matters. Howard has additional expertise in natural resources/water law, civil litigation and appellate practice.

Howard is active in Oregon's statewide legal community. He has served as a member of the Oregon State Board of Bar Examiners, the Bar Examiners' Review Board, and as a past member of the Executive Committee of the Indian Law, Appellate Practice and Legal Services sections of the Oregon State Bar. He also served as a Lawyer's Representative to the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference. Howard is the immediate past President and a current Board member of the Oregon Law Foundation. In addition, he currently serves as a Board member and statewide Co-Chair of the Lawyers' Campaign for Equal Justice.

Howard also is an adjunct professor at the University Of Oregon School Of Law. He teaches the survey course on American Indian Law as well as advanced seminars on Tribal Law and Tribal Courts, Comparative Law of Indigenous Peoples, and Contemporary Issues in American Indian Law. Previously, he was an adjunct professor at the Lewis & Clark Law School teaching the survey course and an advanced seminar on Federal Indian Law.

**Kathryn Hansen** graduated from American University in Washington, D.C. with a Bachelor's Degree in International Studies. From there she moved to the West Coast and graduated from Willamette University College of Law. Her daughter was born two weeks after taking the July 2004 bar exam and Kate began practicing law in Umatilla County that fall. Starting with indigent defense in municipal and circuit courts, Kate moved into her current job as a Deputy District Attorney for Umatilla County in Aug. 2005. Shortly after her son was born in 2007, Kate spent the next year as the prosecutor for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and then returned to the Umatilla County District Attorney's Office. After returning to the Umatilla County District Attorney's Office, Kate handled the juvenile caseload, including all dependency cases filed within Umatilla County. She currently handles a varied caseload for the district attorney's office.

In Kate's nearly 10 years of practice, both as a defense attorney and a prosecutor in state and tribal court, she has handled many cases, including misdemeanor, felony, and Measure 11 criminal cases, civil commitments, and juvenile dependency and delinquency cases.

As a practitioner in both Tribal and State courts, Kate has had an unique opportunity to gain insight into the practical application of ICWA in her community.

**Adrian (Addie) Smith** is trained in both law and social work. She has worked in numerous capacities on the front lines with children and families in the mental health, child welfare, and juvenile justice systems. As a government affairs associate at the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA), Addie works closely with tribes, tribal organizations, and mainstream child advocacy organizations to develop and promote policy that supports the well-being of American Indian and Alaska Native children and families and strengthens tribal child welfare and children's mental health systems. In this role she also works closely with tribes, states, and the federal government to promote improved Indian Child Welfare Act compliance and implementation. She monitors court decisions that affect American Indian and Alaska Native children and families, provides consultation to attorneys, and, when appropriate, works with partner organizations on litigation strategy and amicus briefs.

**Stephanie Striffler** is a Senior Assistant Attorney General in the Oregon Department of Justice and has served since 1997 as DOJ's Native American Affairs Coordinator, as well as counsel for the Oregon Governor's negotiating team with respect to tribal gaming compacts. During her 26 years in the Oregon Department of Justice, she has served in the Appellate Division, as Special Counsel to the Attorney General and Attorney-in-Charge of the Special Litigation Unit and has handled a variety of natural resources and treaty rights litigation in trial and appellate courts. She is currently Chair of the Indian Law Section of the Oregon State Bar and is a frequent speaker at continuing legal education programs and trainings on Indian law topics, including Tribal-State agreements, Indian gaming and Indian country criminal jurisdiction. Ms. Striffler has been responsible for the chapter on State-Tribal Cooperative Agreements in the last three editions of the Conference of Western Attorneys General *American Indian Law Deskbook*. She is a graduate of Reed College and the University of Chicago Law School and served as a judicial clerk to Judge William Richardson on the Oregon Court of Appeals.

**William A. Thorne, Jr.** is a Pomo/Coast Miwok Indian from northern California and is enrolled at the Confederated Tribes of the Graton Rancheria. He received his bachelor of arts from the University of Santa Clara in 1974. He received his juris doctorate from Stanford Law School in 1977. Judge Thorne has served as a tribal judge in Utah, Idaho, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, Montana, Wisconsin, Washington, Michigan, and California for numerous tribes on a part-time basis for more than thirty years. In 1986 Thorne was appointed by the governor as a trial judge for the state of Utah. After fourteen years as a state trial judge he was appointed in 2000 as a judge of the Utah Court of Appeals. He is now retired. Judge Thorne has served on a number of national and local boards/committees including serving as faculty and using his judicial leadership for child welfare system improvement as he participates in many projects and committees. He continues to speak and teach around the country, chiefly on issues related to children including child welfare reform efforts, disproportionality affecting minority children, and the Indian Child Welfare Act.

**Heather Valdez Singleton, M.P.P.**, serves as the program director of the Tribal Law and Policy Institute, a non-profit established in 1996 to design and develop education, research, training, and technical assistance programs which promote the enhancement of justice in Indian country and the health, well-being, and culture of Native peoples. Heather has over 20 years of experience working on policy issues in Indian country, with a focus on tribal criminal justice systems. She received her master's degree in public policy from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard, where her focus was criminal justice policy in Indian country. She also holds a master's degree in American Indian Studies from UCLA. She has researched and written in the area of tribal legal and community development, and California tribal history. Her experience includes serving as project director for several research related projects in Indian country, including UCLA's Native Nations Law and Policy Center's nationwide assessment of Public Law 280; tribal liaison for tribal court grantees in California; series co-editor for the Tribal Legal Studies textbook series, and consultant for the Gabrieleno/Tongva tribal recognition project.