
4th Annual Indian Child Welfare Conference

ICWA: Strengthening Families, Communities, and Our Future

May 5- 6, 2016
Presenter Biographies

Gabriella Archuleta

Gabriella Archuleta is the Court Improvement Program Coordinator for the Administrative Office of the Courts. She has been in this position since March 2015 where her work focuses on training, education outcomes for youth in care, and ICWA compliance. Previously, she worked in the non-profit sector for over ten years where much of her work was dedicated to representing immigrant survivors of violence, developing trainings, and collaborating with community members and stakeholders. Gabriella received a joint Juris Doctor and Master of Public Policy from the University of Utah in 2011, and a Bachelor of Speech Communication and Bachelor of Spanish from the University of Utah in 2003. She lives in West Valley City with her husband and three kids.

David Boyer



David Boyer is an attorney whose focus of practice, since 2000, has been parental and juvenile defense. In 2009, Mr. Boyer left private practice and joined the Utah County Public Defender's Association. In his capacity as a public defender, Mr. Boyer is primarily assigned to the Provo, Fourth District Juvenile Court. From 2003 to 2006, Mr. Boyer contracted as a Parental Defense presenter, with the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP). In that capacity Mr. Boyer assisted an organized team of drug court professionals in training and implementing Family Drug Courts on a national basis. Mr. Boyer was honored in 2012 by the Parental Defense Alliance to be presented Trial Lawyer of the Year. Mr. Boyer received his juris doctorate degree from Brigham Young University, a bachelors of science degree in psychology from Brigham Young University and a certificate of Alternative Dispute Resolution from the University of Utah.

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Dave Carlson

After working in a small litigation firm for the first three years after law school, the Acting Chief of the Litigation Division at the AG's Office encouraged me to apply for an opening in his division. I started at the AG's Office in 1990 working in the Civil Rights Section of the Litigation Division where my main client was the Utah Department of Corrections. Judge Nolan was my first boss and he and I actually shared an office for the first month or so. My biggest case was a month-long jury trial in which Rocky Anderson's client was claiming that medical care for inmates was so poor that it constituted "cruel and unusual punishment" under the Eighth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

In 1993, Rob Parrish hired me to work in the Child Abuse Prosecution Unit of the Criminal Division. My assignment was to assist the county attorneys in Northern Utah prosecute a backlog of parental termination actions in the juvenile courts. I did one termination trial after another for a solid year. In 1994 the AG's Office took over the prosecution of abuse and neglect cases from the counties and I was asked to remain in Northern Utah as Section Chief in the newly created Child Protection Division. Then, in 1998, I was asked to serve as the Chief of that Division; while Chief, I frequently second-chaired challenging cases.

I left the AG's Office in 2002 and worked for a few different cities: South Salt Lake; Provo; and, North Ogden. Judge Frost was my Deputy at South Salt Lake. My time with the cities was split between civil and criminal litigation and general counsel duties. On behalf of South Salt Lake I successfully defended the city's right to regulate sexually oriented businesses all the way to the Utah Supreme Court on the state side, to the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals on the federal and I successfully opposed a petition for certiorari at the U.S. Supreme Court. On the criminal side, I prosecuted many domestic violence cases and at Provo City my sole assignment was to prosecute violent crimes against women.

Late in 2011, I was invited to return to work in the Criminal Justice Division at the AG's Office. I litigated asset forfeiture and factual innocence cases and prosecuted felonies. In a stroke of irony, I successfully defended the factual innocence petition filed by Sherman Lynch who was attempting to get his conviction for murdering his wife Pat Rothermich set aside. Many of us old timers worked closely with Pat when she was the DCFS Regional Director in Salt Lake. I left Criminal Justice and had a short stay in the AG's Highways and Utilities Division litigating condemnation cases for UDOT. In May of 2014, I was asked by the new Attorney General, Sean Reyes, to lead the Child Protection Division for the second time.

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Angilee K. Dakic Angilee Dakic is an attorney in Family Law, Intellectual Property Law, and Tribal Law. Angilee attended the University of California, Santa Cruz for her undergraduate studies. While at the University of California, she enrolled in a Tribal Law and Sovereignty class, which then inspired her to go to law school. She also attended the University of Western Australia, where she worked with Aborigines and studied law. Angilee earned her J.D. while living in Michigan and working with local Native American Tribes in the Great Lakes area. Angilee currently works as a senior attorney in the Tribal Law Division at Utah Legal Services, Inc. She is also counsel in an Indian Child Welfare Act case, which is presently pending decision by the Utah Supreme Court.

Judge Keith E. Eddington



Judge Keith Eddington was appointed to the Eighth District Juvenile Court in October 2013 by Gov. Gary R. Herbert. He serves Duchesne, Uintah, and Daggett counties. Judge Eddington received a law degree from Brigham Young University's J. Reuben Clark Law School in 1988. Prior to his appointment to the bench, he was in private practice from 1988 to 2001. Judge Eddington served as an Assistance Attorney General in child protection from 2001 to 2006. He returned to private practice in 2006 until his appointment to the bench. Judge Eddington has served on the Advisory Board of the Children's Justice Center in Uintah and Duchesne counties and prosecuted child welfare cases for the Ute Indian Tribe from 2012 to 2013. He served as an adjunct professor of Business Law for Utah State University from 2003 to 2005 and currently sits on the Utah Court Improvement Project Committee on Indian Affairs.

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Alisa A. Lee

Alisa Lee is an enrolled member of the federally-recognized Fort Independence Paiute Tribe in Owens Valley, California. Alisa received her B.S in Psychology and a minor in Native American studies and a J.D from Brigham Young University. Alisa also completed a Master's degree from UCLA in American Indian Studies. Her thesis focused on the implementation of the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 (ICWA). Her education and research at UCLA increased her desire to work with Indian families and improve compliance with ICWA. Alisa is currently the Indian Child Welfare Administrator for Utah's Division of Child and Family Services and she also serves as the Native American Liaison for the Department of Human Services.

After graduation from law school, Alisa returned to California and worked for her Tribe as the Director of Community and Economic Development. Alisa enjoyed addressing the barriers to economic success for her community and worked to establish internal capacity so the Tribe could reassume and expand self-governance. Alisa also worked for the Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians as their Enrollment Officer. As Alisa worked with Indian communities in California, she realized that there was a consistent shortage of foster and adoptive homes for Indian children. Alisa and her husband became licensed foster parents and later were able to adopt three siblings who are Yokut/Navajo.

Alisa is a champion of ICWA. She is excited to be working in the field of Indian child welfare during this pivotal time as federal agencies are increasing their collaboration and support of ICWA. She is especially passionate about ensuring the best outcomes for Indian children and is working to increase preventative and culturally relevant services for Indian families in Utah.

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Commissioner Rafael López



Nominated by President Obama and confirmed by the United States Senate, Rafael López is the Commissioner of the Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

López is a results driven leader with experience in helping lead complex organizations in the public and social sectors where he has served in numerous roles at the city, county and state level focused on improving the lives of children, families and communities. From 2013-2015, López served as a Senior Policy Advisor at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy within the Executive Office of the President and with the Domestic Policy Council.

Prior to his service at the White House, López was an Associate Director at the Annie E. Casey Foundation, a private, national philanthropy devoted to developing a brighter future for millions of children at risk of poor educational, economic, social and health outcomes. Previously, López served as the President and CEO of The Family League of Baltimore City, Inc. where he was a member of the Baltimore City Mayor's Cabinet. From 2006-2009, López was appointed by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa to serve on his Cabinet as the Executive Director of the City of Los Angeles Commission for Children, Youth and Their Families. López previously served as the Deputy Director of the City and County of San Francisco Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families and as Senior Deputy for Health and Human Services for Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina. From 1999-2004, López served as the Founding Executive Director of First 5 Santa Cruz County where he launched the countywide implementation of the California Children and Families First Act-Proposition 10 and led innovative efforts to expand and create programs and services in health, school readiness, and family support including the creation of one of California's first comprehensive health coverage programs for all Santa Cruz County children.

In 1999, López became the youngest person in the City's history to serve on the Watsonville City Council where he led neighborhood based efforts to civically engage youth and immigrant families in the development of city services. He has worked closely with community based organizations as a volunteer, manager, executive, board member and founder and was sponsored by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation to serve as a fellow at Stanford University's Center for Social Innovation at the Graduate School of Business Executive Program for Nonprofit Leaders. López was awarded a 2007-2008 Annie E. Casey Foundation Children and Family National Fellowship.

Born and raised in Watsonville, California, López is an alumnus of Vassar College and the University of California Santa Cruz where he graduated with honors in American Studies. He is a graduate of Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government where he earned a Master in Public Administration and was named a Lucius N. Littauer Fellow. López and his wife, Rosa Ramírez-López, live in Washington, D.C. with their sons Adán Miguel and Mateo Gabriel.

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Judge Julie V. Lund



Judge Julie V. Lund was appointed to the Third District Juvenile Court in November 2010 by Governor Gary R. Herbert. She serves Salt Lake, Summit, and Tooele counties. Judge Lund graduated in 1981 from the University of Colorado-Boulder with a B.A. in Political Science and received a law degree from the University of Utah College of Law in 1986. She was employed in a civil litigation practice until 1995, when she joined the Child Protection Division of the Utah Attorney General's office. Judge Lund was named the Attorney of the Year in 2003. She served as division chief for three years prior to her appointment to the bench. Judge Lund is a past president of the Board of Trustees for the S.J. Quinney College of Law and a member of the executive committee of the Salt Lake County Bar Association. She presently serves as Associate Presiding Judge and as a member of the Utah Sentencing Commission.

Damon Polk



Damon has been a Substance Abuse Counselor with the Behavioral Care Department since May 2008. He works to incorporate the strengths of the beautiful native ways of life with proven treatment methods to create opportunities for client success.

Damon facilitates Open Bird, Open Drum, and Sweat Lodge. He also provides individual counseling, and is a Prime for Life instructor. He is an enrolled member of the San Carlos Apache Tribe and of the Quechan Indian Nation. He was born and raised on the Quechan Indian Nation in Southern California. Damon feels very humbled and honored to serve the Paiute membership in this capacity.

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**Judge William L.
Reynolds**

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS SCHOOL OF LAW, Lawrence, Kansas
J.D. May 2006

Perspectives on Law & Contemporary Culture

Article Editor 2004-2005

Business Manager 2005-2006

- Environmental and Natural Resources Certificate
- Tribal Lawyer Certificate

National Indian Law Moot Court Team

Oralist/Brief Writer

UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY, Logan, Utah

B.A., History, Minor in English, April 2003

GPA: 3.72/4.00 (cum laude)

Student Body President USU-U, 2002-03

Executive Vice-President USU-U, 2001-02

Historical Internship; Teaching Assistant/ Research Assistant

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

UTE INDIAN TRIBE

Interim Chief Judge, February 2009 - January 2011,

Associate Judge September 2006 - January 2009, January 2011 - Present,

Ute Indian Juvenile Court Judge-- June 2013-Present

Preside over criminal bench and jury trials

Preside over civil matters brought in Ute Indian Tribal Court

Oversee the operation of the Ute Indian Tribal Court

SHOSHONE-PAIUTE TRIBES

Judge *Pro Tem*- September 2014-Present

Preside over assigned conflicts cases

SAM & REYNOLDS, P.C.

Attorney and Officer, September 2006–Present

Practice is concentrated in complex civil litigation typically involving Business, Contract, and Oil & Gas matters.

Representation of various business entities and associations

Successfully argued before the Utah Court of Appeals

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS SCHOOL OF LAW, August 2005-May 2006

Research Assistant, Professor Stacy Leeds, Director of Tribal Law & Government Center

Perform legal research

Edit legal scholarship

OFFICE OF SENATOR CAROLYN MCGINN, Topeka, Kansas, January 2005 - May 2005

Perform legislative research and assist in committee work

Develop tactics for the introduction of legislation

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Judge Debra
Ridley



I'm Ms. Debra Ridley; My Indian name is "*Tah'vo-its Pah'vah*."

I have a son Sky Stinnett who is married to Amy Stinnett they live and work in Lehi Utah and a granddaughter who I raised as a daughter Raenisa Ridley Barton married to Ramon Barton and Grandson Zane RunningHorse. I am an enrolled member of the Ute Indian Tribe. I live on the Ute Indian Reservation which is located northeastern part of Utah, about 150 miles from Salt Lake City.

My educational background: My legal education is with the American Indian Paralegal Program/University of Utah Law School, National Indian Justice Center, CA. and with The National Judicial College in Nevada.

I serve on many boards and advisory committees such as American Indian Judges Association, Former U.S. Commission On Civil Rights, Former Utah Task Force on Racial and Ethnic Fairness Sub-Judicial Committee, Utah State Court Improvement Steering Committee, Youth In Custody Council Uintah County, Former Violence Against Women Task Force Council, Duchesne County Children's Justice Center Advisory Board, and Former Four Direction CASA Program Advisory Board.

I have served the Ute Indian Tribe thru an appointment (6 years) from the Ute Tribal Business Committee and currently a full time Judge in the Juvenile Court Division this has been for approximately 28 years on May 13.

Thank you, *Towaoc!*

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**Shirlee
Silversmith**



Shirlee Silversmith attended Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah where she received her Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Education. From there she furthered her education by obtaining a Master in Education from Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona. Shirlee has worked as the Learning for Life Director, an affiliate of the Boy Scouts of America, at the Utah National Parks Council. Throughout the duration of this position, she directed and facilitated character education programs. These programs consisted of implementing and teaching character education lesson plans to Pre-K through 12th grade students in schools, communities, and organizations. It also provided a career development program for youth, which included outreach programs to Tribal Nations. Previously to her career at Learning for Life, Shirlee worked with the Utah State Office of Education as the Indian Education Specialist for nearly 20 years. She was primarily responsible for improving Indian Education within elementary, secondary and post-secondary schools of the Utah public school system. Furthermore, she directed outreach efforts and training for improved relations with Tribal Nations and educators. Shirlee also facilitated the development of the Indian Education strategic plan and organized the Utah American Indian/Alaska Native Education Advisory Committee. Other achievements include development of grants and funding to cultivate American Indian curriculum and resource materials for classroom usage. Additionally, Shirlee assisted Tribal Nations with negotiating MOA's with USOE for educational partnerships and provided technical assistance to Tribal Education Departments. In 2011, Governor Gary R. Herbert appointed Ms. Silversmith as the State Director for the Utah Division of Indian Affairs. During the past five years Shirlee and her staff have provided extensive program outreach and developed new venues for Tribal Leaders.

Victoria Sweet



Victoria Sweet (Anishinaabe) is a program attorney at the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. She is licensed in Minnesota. Sweet received her JD from Michigan State University College of Law with a certificate in Indigenous Law and Policy, attended the Pre-Law Summer Institute at the American Indian Law Center, and earned her MAEd and BA from George Wythe University. She worked as the legal fellow at the Indigenous Law and Policy Center at Michigan State University College of Law, spent a summer working at the White Earth Tribal Court, a summer working at the Indian Law Resource Center, and was both a research assistant and teaching assistant for Professors Matthew Fletcher and Wenona Singel. Prior to her legal career, Sweet was a high school teacher and educational lecturer. She has presented at national and international conferences on topics such as human trafficking, violence against Native women, ICWA compliance, protection orders, and intergenerational trauma and provides technical assistance to both state and tribal court judges, attorneys, advocates, and court staff. Sweet's publications include articles on the human trafficking of Native women and girls and the violence against and exploitation of Native women.

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Heather Tanana

Heather J. Tanana is an attorney with Richards Brandt Miller Nelson, where she primarily practices in the areas of family law and Indian law. Ms. Tanana is also an associate faculty member of the Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health. She has co-authored articles on energy development in Indian Country and the Indian Child Welfare Act. Prior to beginning her legal career, she worked for the Indian Health Service in the Office of Tribal Self-Governance. Ms. Tanana is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation. She is admitted to practice in the State of Utah and before the Navajo Nation. She received her B.A. degree from Dartmouth College, her J.D degree from S.J. Quinney College of Law - University of Utah and her M.P.H. degree from Bloomberg School of Public Health - Johns Hopkins University.

Judge William A. Thorne, Jr.



Judge William A. Thorne, Jr. (ret.), a Pomo/Coast Miwok Indian from northern California, was appointed to the Utah Court of Appeals in May 2000 by Gov. Michael O. Leavitt. He retired in September of 2013. He was a judge in the Third Circuit Court for eight years, having been appointed by Governor Norman Bangerter in 1986, and then served in the Third District Court for six years, having been appointed by Governor Leavitt in 1994. Judge Thorne received a B.A. from the University of Santa Clara in 1974 and a J.D. from Stanford Law School in 1977. Judge Thorne has served for over 34 years as a tribal court judge in Utah, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona, Wisconsin, South Dakota, Nevada, California, Nebraska, and Michigan. He is the former president and current vice-president of the National Indian Justice Center (a nonprofit that trains tribal court and other personnel around the country), and a former member of the Board of Directors for National CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates, a nonprofit group that provides volunteer representation for abused and neglected children in court). He was formerly a member of PEW Commission on Foster Care, the Board of Directors for the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute (a nonprofit seeking to improve the level of research and practice related to adoptions), a former member of the Board of Trustees for the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and a former member of the ABA Steering Committee on the Unmet Legal Needs of Children. He is a former member of the Utah Judicial Council, the Board of Circuit Court Judges, and the Board of Directors for the National American Indian Court Judge's Association, and most recently Chair of the Board for Child Trends, Inc. (a nonprofit devoted to research dealing with children and families). He is also a former chair of the Utah Juvenile Justice Task Force of the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice, former vice-chair of the Utah Board of Youth Corrections, former co-chair of the Judicial Council's Committee on Improving Jury Service, former chair of the Judicial Council's Bail Bonding Committee, former chair of the Court Technology Committee, former member of the Salt Lake County Domestic Violence Advisory Committee, and a former member of the steering committee for the Judicial Council's Task Force on Racial and Ethnic Fairness. He is currently a member of the board for WestEd Inc. (a non-profit focusing on excellence and equity in education), the board of the Center for the Study of Social Policy, and the Advisory Council for the Capacity Building Center for Tribes of the U.S. Children's Bureau. Since his retirement from the bench, Judge Thorne has worked to improve the lives of children and their families.

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Ann Silverburg Williamson



Ann Silverberg Williamson was appointed Executive Director in October 2013. Williamson has dedicated her career to serving children, families, and adults through public-private partnerships. As executive director, she is responsible for the administration and supervision of a committed workforce that provides support and services to Utah's most vulnerable children, families and adults.

Utah Department of Human Services is composed of the Division of Aging and Adult Services, Division of Child and Family Services, Division of Juvenile Justice Services, Division of Services for People with Disabilities, Utah State Developmental Center, Utah State Hospital, Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health, Office of Licensing, Office of Recovery Services and Office of Public Guardian.

Services provided by Utah Department of Human Services are designed to meet Utahns in their communities and in a manner that best meets their needs. Working closely with community partners, the primary goal of the department is to give children, youth, individuals, and families an opportunity to live safe, healthy and successful lives. A native of Louisiana, Williamson served that state for the past 15 years working in both the public and private sectors in the interests of human services. Throughout her career, she has been seen as a reformer seeking the most effective and efficient use of resources to produce results for those she serves.

Williamson led the Louisiana Department of Social Services (DSS, now Department of Children and Family Services) from 2001-2008, holding consecutive cabinet posts. While at the agency, Williamson championed the development of the integrated human service delivery program, "No Wrong Door," and led the department's emergency response to the 2005 catastrophic hurricanes that impacted the state. During her tenure, the U.S. Department of Agriculture honored DSS with the Pinnacle Award, a national citation of excellence, for the department's efforts following the storms. From 2009 until 2013, as President and CEO of the Louisiana Association of Nonprofit Organizations (LANO), Williamson led advocacy efforts for the statewide member organization working to strengthen the effectiveness and sustainability of the nonprofit sector. In 2012, she was honored as one of the nation's top 50 leaders by The NonProfit Times.

Williamson graduated from Wofford College, in Spartanburg, South Carolina, with a degree in theology and earned a master's in Social Work from Louisiana State University (LSU). Williamson received awards from both Wofford College and LSU as a Distinguished Alumna.

She and her husband Tyler are the committed parents of three children - 10-year-old twin daughters and a 7-year-old son - who are now making Utah their home.
