

# Navajo Nation Law CLE Conference

Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law

September 24, 2010

---

## Speaker Biographies



### **Bidtah Becker**

Bidtah Becker is a member of the Navajo Nation and an Attorney in the Water Rights Unit of the Navajo Nation Department of Justice. She is a graduate of the University of New Mexico School of Law and the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service. She is married to Paul Spruhan and is the proud mama of Bahe, 5 years old, and Tazbah, 1 year old.



### **Judy M. Dworkin**

Judith M. Dworkin is the Managing Partner of the Scottsdale law firm of Sacks Tierney P.A. Her practice is devoted primarily to Indian law and water resources law issues. Ms. Dworkin has been selected for inclusion in Best Lawyers of America in the fields of Water Law and Native American Law. She received her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in geography from Clark University and her J.D. degree, cum laude, from Arizona State University. She clerked for the Honorable William C. Canby, Jr. of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. She is admitted to the Arizona and Navajo Nation bars and is admitted to practice in the Courts of the Tohono O'odham Nation, Gila River Indian Community, Hopi Tribe and Hualapai Tribe. Ms. Dworkin lectures regularly and publishes on topics relating to economic development on Indian Reservations. Ms. Dworkin is an adjunct professor in the College of Law and the School of Urban Planning where she teaches graduate courses in water and natural resources law and planning. Ms. Dworkin has represented the Navajo Nation in federal and state court proceedings and has represented several chapters of the Navajo Nation in economic development and construction related projects.



## Roxann S. Gallagher

Roxann Gallagher is an attorney at Sacks Tierney P.A. in Scottsdale, Arizona. Her practice is concentrated in the area of business and finance with an emphasis on Native American economic development. Mr. Gallagher’s Indian Law experience includes participation in the issuance, sale and remarketing of tax-exempt and taxable bonds for governmental and economic development projects, the execution and delivery of loan and lease agreements, and an engagement as special counsel to the seller for Indian Law issues with respect to the \$965M sale of the Hard Rock assets to the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Ms. Gallagher is a proud graduate of the Indian Legal Program at the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law and is a frequent lecturer on issues related to transactions in Indian Country. Additional information regarding Ms. Gallagher’s practice areas, court admissions and professional activities can be found at [www.sackstierney.com](http://www.sackstierney.com).



## Levon B. Henry

Levon Henry, a member of the Navajo Nation, is the Executive Director of DNA-People’s Legal Services, Inc., the largest Indian legal services program in the country serving seven Indian nations and two state counties. The legal services program maintains 10 offices in New Mexico, Arizona and Utah to assist low-income persons in civil legal matters. Mr. Henry is the former Attorney General for the Navajo Nation serving in that capacity from 1999 to 2002. He is currently the Chair of the National Association of Indian Legal Services, an organization of Legal Services Corporation (LSC) Native American programs across the country. Mr. Henry received his law degree from the University of New Mexico School of Law and has a B.A. from Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan. He is licensed to practice in Navajo courts, New Mexico courts, U.S. federal court (NM) and the U.S. Supreme Court. He is the immediate past President of the Navajo Nation Bar Association, having been a member since 1987. Mr. Henry is a 2008 Harvard Law School Wasserstein Fellow and continues to assist law students in finding opportunities working in Indian Country.

## Justin Jones

Y1’1t’44h, sh7 47 Justin Jones yinishy4. Bit’2hnii nish[7, Ta’neeszahnii b1sh7shch77n, Kin {ich7i’nii dashicheii, !shiih7 dashinal7.

I am from Rock Point, Arizona. I grew up in Rock Point and attended school there. I received my bachelors degree in Political Science and Secondary Education from Fort Lewis College. I received my Juris Doctorate Degree and the Indian Law, Government, and Natural Resources Law Certificate from the University of Kansas School of Law. I am currently in private practice with The Law Offices of Justin Jones, P.C. in Farmington, New Mexico.



### **Daniel B. Mestaz**

Daniel B. Mestaz is an attorney with the Scottsdale law firm of Sacks Tierney P.A. He is an experienced trial lawyer, a former litigation partner at a large global law firm, and a former Maricopa County deputy public defender. His practice focuses on two main areas: white collar criminal matters and complex civil litigation. Criminal matters include corporate internal investigations, mortgage fraud defense, grand jury representation, and self-defense cases. Civil matters include contract disputes, business fraud and other torts, and eminent domain. He has represented the Navajo Nation in an internal investigation, Fortune 500 companies in both internal investigations and commercial disputes, and franchisees in lawsuits against franchisors. Mr. Mestaz also has extensive experience in electronic discovery matters and has lectured on e-discovery topics at CLE programs. He received his B.A. degree from the University of Southern California and his J.D. degree from New York University. He is admitted to practice in Arizona and California, including federal district and appellate courts. He is a member of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the Arizona Attorneys for Criminal Justice, and Los Abogados.

### **Kerry Patterson**



Ms. Patterson is of counsel in the firm's Tribal Affairs and Gaming practice group. She has extensive experience in multiple aspects of Native American law and real estate law.

Ms. Patterson has worked on several multimillion dollar projects involving Native American lands that included development agreements, negotiation of leases as well as other types of agreements. She has directed matters involving Native American employment preference, development fee ordinances and issues related to land use and zoning. Ms. Patterson also has experience financing Native American projects, including assisting Community Development Financial Institutions in all aspects of finance and development.

In addition, Ms. Patterson is well versed in real estate development including retail leasing, purchase and sale, negotiation and preparation of easement agreements, development agreements, license agreements and other related documents.

Prior to joining Lewis and Roca, Ms. Patterson was an associate at Fennemore Craig, P.C.

## Frank Seanez



Frank Seanez is Chief Legislative Counsel of the Navajo Nation. Mr. Seanez has been an attorney with the Navajo Nation since November 1991, with the Office of the Attorney General through June 1996, and subsequently with the Office of Legislative Counsel. The Office of Legislative Counsel drafts legislation for consideration by the Navajo Nation Council and its standing committees, and publishes the Navajo Nation Code on an annual basis through the West Group of Reuters/Thomson.

## Paul Spruhan



Paul Spruhan is Assistant Attorney General for Human Services and Government at the Navajo Nation Department of Justice in Window Rock, Arizona. He received his A.B. in 1995 and his A.M. in 1996 from the University of Chicago. He received his J.D. in 2000 from the University of New Mexico. He graduated Order of the Coif and received an Indian law certificate. He and his wife, Bidtah Becker, also an attorney for the Navajo Nation Department of Justice, have two children, and live in Gallup, New Mexico.