

Peter Capossela, Esq.
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Introduction

Currently manage solo law firm (1992-present), focusing on federal Indian law, environmental law, and legislation. Previously worked as staff attorney at Nevada Legal Services Indian-Rural Office (1991-1992), and Standing Rock Sioux Tribe (1988-1991). Obtained law degree from University of Oregon School of Law in 1988.

Professional

Oregon State Bar (Indian Law Section).

Education

J.D., University of Oregon School of Law, May, 1988
B.A., University of Oregon, June, 1983

Experience

Private Law and Consulting Practice, Walterville, Sandy and Eugene Oregon (1992-present)

Engage in federal litigation, legislative advocacy in Congress and administrative advocacy in agency rulemakings and appeals.

Assist Indian Tribes on land use and jurisdiction, water rights, and the protection of cultural and environmental resources. Provide counsel to non-profit organizations on formation, governance, grants and operations.

Oglala Lakota College, Graduate Program, Environmental Studies, Kyle, S.D. (2007)

Supervised graduate seminar on Advanced Environmental Policy, and conducted review of final projects and dissertations for Masters of Science candidates in Environmental Studies.

Nevada Legal Services, Indian-Rural Office, Carson City, Nevada (1991-1992)

Staff attorney in legal services' office, representing low income clients on Indian law, Veterans benefits and housing issues.

Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Fort Yates, North Dakota (1988-1991)

Staff attorney for Indian Tribe, responsible for legislation, Congressional appropriations, federal grants and contracts, and administrative appeals.

Multnomah County Legal Aid Service, Inc., Portland, Oregon (1986-1987)

Legal extern performing legislative advocacy in 1987 session of the Oregon legislature, in support of welfare reform and human services funding.

Selected Professional Accomplishments

- *Standing Rock Sioux Tribe v. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*, CV 00-1023 (D.S.D. 2000), injunctive relief from Corps of Engineers' water releases eroding burial site of the historical Chief Mad Bear, resulting in permanent protection of site.
- Legislative counsel for key provisions of the *Indian Land Leasing Act*, to provide for USDA debt relief to Indian Tribes. (Public Law 109-221, 120 Stat. 341, May 12, 2006).
- Legal counsel to a Tribal negotiating team for the enactment of the *Three Affiliated Tribes and Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Equitable Compensation Act of 1992*, which compensated the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe \$90.6 million for damages suffered upon construction of a flood control project. (Public Law 102-575, 106 Stat. 4730, October 30, 1992).
- Received *Certificate of Special Recognition* from the Administrator, Office of Federal Procurement Policy, for "Outstanding and innovative work under the Audit Alternative Dispute Resolution Program." (June 19, 2007). Awarded for role as legal counsel in the settlement of \$13 million contract dispute before the federal Board of Civilian Contract Appeals.

Publications

Impacts of the Army Corps of Engineers' Pick-Sloan Program on the Indian Tribes of the Missouri River Basin, *Journal of Environmental Law and Litigation*, 30:143 (2015)

Indian Reserved Water Rights in the Missouri River Basin, *Great Plains Natural Resources Journal*, 6:131 (2002).

Professional Presentations

Presenter at numerous law and continuing education conferences on Native American rights, environmental justice and natural resources law and policy.