



SWTHA 7th Annual Housing Forum

Sustainable Housing Through Financing

Casino Del Sol Resort - Tucson, AZ

July 28-30, 2015

Speaker Bios

Senator Carlyle W. Begay



Senator Carlyle W. Begay (D-Ganado) was born on the Navajo Nation and he is Tó'tsohnii (Big Water), born for Kinyaa'áanii (Towering House) clans. Senator Begay is a lifetime resident of Arizona and grew up on the Navajo Nation near Black Mesa and was raised under the teachings of his ancestry, instilling in him the importance of remembering the story of his people and carrying it on to his descendants.

Senator Begay graduated from the University of Arizona with a Bachelor of Science degree in Molecular and Cellular Biology and was a student in the Minority Medical Education Program at the University of Arizona's College of Medicine. After graduation, he continued his education and attended the W.P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State University earning a Master's degree in Health Sector Management. He also attended the Arizona International College's Natural Sciences and Mathematics program in Tucson, Arizona; Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health's Winter Institute, in Baltimore, Maryland; and the Harvard School of Public Health's Public Health Studies program in Boston, Massachusetts.

Through these experiences Senator Begay accrued a tremendous acumen and passion for health and education policy and business. He has experience in the management of health care organizations, managed care, health care market structure, and health care delivery. Senator Begay has also devoted much of his career to improving education for all and ensuring, regardless of location or race, every person receives the first-rate education they deserve.

As state Senator representing legislative district 7, he has continued to give a voice to the Native American community and his constituents as a whole. He currently serves on the Senate committees of Education; Water & Energy; Transportation; and Financial Institutions. Additionally, he serves as co-chair of the Native American Caucus which considers issues that impact the community and works toward solutions that will make a meaningful difference.

Carolyn O'Neil (SWONAP Administrator)

Carolyn O'Neil, (Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians) has been the Administrator for the Southwest Office of Native American Programs (SWONAP) since 2008; responsible for oversight of more than 150 tribes receiving approximately \$129,000,000 in IHBG and \$20,000,000 in ICDBG. Ms. O'Neil interacts with Tribal Leaders, Federal and State governments and the Representatives concerned with tribal issues. Unique to the SWONAP, Ms. O'Neil has created an Inter-agency collaboration of state and federal agencies which meets monthly to address and assist with the coordination of developing tribal

infrastructure in the southwest. Before assuming her current position Ms. O'Neil worked for 30 years in the housing division of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians ending her 'first' career there as the Executive Director of Housing.

Marvin Ginn (Executive Director, Native Community Finance)



Marvin Ginn, an enrolled member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, is the Executive Director of Native Community Finance (NCF). NCF provides financial education, community oriented affordable loans, VITA/TCE tax site, IDA program, and mortgage assistance services. NCF is one of four certified Native Community Development Financial Institutions in New Mexico. Currently, he serves on three Boards which include the Housing Assistance Council (HAC), Native CDFI Network (NCN) and the Credit Builder Alliance.

For over 20 years Marvin has gained experience working within Native Community housing and economic development. Prior to developing NCF, he served as the Director of Tenant Services for Laguna Housing Development and Management Enterprise (LHDME) as well as the Housing Director for the Pueblo of Jemez. He was also a Community Development Officer with the Bank of Albuquerque where he was instrumental in developing the HUD 184 loan program for the bank.

Marvin has always been an advocate for initiatives in Indian Country. He works with the Bureau of Indian Affairs Loan Guaranty program in order to obtain loans for Native entrepreneurs. Marvin also received recognition from the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Federal Home Loan Bank for his work and input on the processing of Title Status Reports and recording of Tribal Land Leases. He also has served as the Chairman of the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of New Mexico for eight years.

Marvin is a certified financial and homebuyer trainer. In this capacity he has conducted many financial and homebuyer education classes for different tribes in the United States. Many of these classes were in conjunction with the National American Indian Housing Council.

John L. Clancy & Brian Pierson (Godfrey-Kahn Law Firm)



John L. Clancy leads G&K's Environmental and Energy Strategies team. John's extensive experience with tribes and other clients includes advice on funding opportunities for renewable energy and large energy efficiency projects, siting of energy facilities, negotiation of power purchase agreements, acquisition of energy facilities, certification and transfers of renewable energy credits, negotiation of cogeneration facility agreements, land use and transmission line issues, negotiation of individualized energy tariffs, intervention in regulatory rate cases. John is listed in The Best Lawyers in America (Environmental Law) Chambers USA, America's Leading

Lawyers for Business and Wisconsin Superlawyers. For more information, see John's biography at www.gklaw.com



Brian Pierson leads Godfrey & Kahn's Indian Nations Law Team. A 1983 graduate of the University of Wisconsin law school (cum laude), Brian clerked for federal district judge Myron L. Gordon before entering private practice. Brian has over 25 years of experience representing Indian tribes, beginning with his successful representation of Chippewa Indians in federal court litigation to prevent racially-motivated interference

with treaty-reserved, off-reservation fishing rights. Brian writes and speaks frequently on Indian law issues. A list of articles and publications is available at www.gklaw.com. He is the author of the NAIHC's Indian Country Housing Development Handbook. Brian is admitted to the bars of Wisconsin, Wisconsin federal courts, the U.S. Supreme Court and various tribal courts. He is the recipient of the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Wisconsin's "Service to Indian Country" Award and ACLU-Wisconsin's "Civil Libertarian of the Year." He is listed in Best Lawyers in America and Wisconsin Super Lawyers. Brian is an adjunct professor of Indian law at Marquette University Law School. Contact information: bperson@glaw.com or 414 287 9456.

Rodney Clements (Training and Technical Assistance Consultant for NAIHC)



Rodney is a Management Consultant and has 20 years of experience working in Indian Country. He began his management career working with his own tribe gaining progressively complex and specialized administrative experience in tribal government and Indian housing programs, including financial and programmatic management of a diverse range of federal grants, contracts, and programs for tribes. His professional roles include Business Associate, Executive Director, Tribal Administrator, and Tribal Council member. Building on his unique business experience, since 2009, Rodney has turned his focus to finding new ways to support the capacity-building efforts of tribes, in particular improving workplace learning transfer, human performance development, and most importantly, leadership development. As a training and technical assistance consultant for the National American Indian Housing Council, Rodney currently provides national and regional trainings under the HUD ONAP T/TA program as well as direct technical assistance to tribes and tribal housing entities in the management of their Indian Housing Block Grant programs. Rodney is an enrolled member of the Mechoopda Maidu Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria. He received his BA from Vanguard University.

Dave Castillo (Native Home Capital)



Mr. Castillo was appointed to serve as CEO in early 2009 with previous experience in the private-, public- and non-profit sectors. Prior contributions to the field of tribal housing and economic development occurred through work as Senior Deputy Director for Fannie Mae in Arizona, Economic Development Division Manager for the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community as well as Community Development Director for the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. His work with finance professionals as well as elected and appointed officials has resulted in increased access to private capital as well as federal and state resources for new and rehabilitated housing on Tribal lands. He is a member of the Arizona Commission on Indian Affairs and serves on the Board of Directors for the following organizations: Native CDFI Network, Arizona Native Assets Coalition and the Construction In Indian Country Center. Mr. Castillo holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from Stanford University and a Master in Business Administration degree from the W.P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State University. Mr. Castillo is of Nahua Indian descent.

Lorna Fogg & Robin Thorne (VitalSpirit, LLC)

Lorna Fogg is a founding partner of VitalSpirit LLC. Lorna has worked in the tax credit industry since 1995, previously as the director of acquisitions for Raymond James Tax Credit Funds Inc., a tax credit syndicator and later as President/CEO of Travois Inc. an affordable housing consulting firm that specializes in Indian Country. Her experience includes underwriting, asset management and serving

both as an investor and client liaison. As president of Travois, Lorna oversaw staff working in areas of Low Income Housing Tax Credits, gap financing, compliance and New Markets Tax Credits and provided training and education to tribes, investors and other agencies. She was previously a member of Novogradac & Company LLP's LIHTC Working Group, which works to resolve technical and administrative LIHTC program issues. Lorna graduated from the University of South Florida with a degree in accounting.

Robin Thorne is a founding partner of VitalSpirit LLC. She has over ten years of experience working with tribal clients in developing and managing their affordable housing projects. Robin works directly with tribal housing authority staff to ensure compliance with LIHTC, NAHASDA, AHP and other affordable housing program requirements. She is a frequent speaker at industry trainings and events, conducts seminars and makes regular on-site visits to clients and tribal partners. With the National American Indian Housing Council, Robin created the NAHASDA & Tax Credit Compliance Professional (NTCCP) curriculum and national certification program, which designates professional experience and expertise in continuing operational compliance under the two programs. She also works with tribal clients, tribal advocacy groups, state allocating agencies and elected officials to ensure that tax credit and grant programs policies reflect the concerns and needs of tribal organizations. Robin is certified as a National Compliance Professional Executive (NCPE) and served six years on the NCP Advisory Board for the Housing Credit College. She is also a Housing Credit Certified Professional (HCCP), designated by the National Association of Home Builders. Robin graduated from the University of South Florida with a degree in communications and English.