

**SPOKANE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION  
FIFTEENTH ANNUAL INDIAN LAW CONFERENCE**

Hosts: Spokane County Bar Association Indian Law Section  
and Gonzaga University School of Law

*Friday, March 15, 2024*

Welcome	Juliana C. Repp, CLE Chairperson - Indian Law Section
8:30 am	<i>Opening Prayer &amp; Welcome Song</i>
8:45 - 9:45 am	<b>Common Ethical Issues and Overview of New Advisory Opinions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Jeanne Marie Clavere</b>, Senior Professional Responsibility Counsel, Washington State Bar Association</li><li>• <b>Hon. Gloria Ochoa-Bruck</b>, Spokane Municipal Court Judge</li></ul>
9:45 - 10:00 am	Break
10:00 – 11:30 pm	<b>Washington State &amp; Federal Legislative Update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Hon. Debra Lekanoff (D-40th LD)</b></li><li>• <b>Josh Clause</b>, Principal, Clause Law PLLC</li><li>• <b>Luke Esser</b>, Luke Esser Government Affairs</li><li>• <b>Michael Moran</b>, Moran Public Affairs</li></ul>
11:30 – 1:00 pm	Lunch – Volkar Karen Gaffney Champions Room (next to Gonzaga Law School)  <b>Keynote Address: Hon. Lisa Brown</b> , Mayor of Spokane
1:00 – 2:30 pm	<b>Columbia River Settlement Update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>John Shurts</b>, Northwest Power and Conservation Council</li><li>• <b>Laura Robinson</b>, Upper Columbia United Tribes</li></ul>
2:30 - 2:45 pm	Break
2:45 - 4:15 pm	<b>Expanded Tribal Regulation of Wetlands After <i>Sackett</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>John Shurts</b>, Northwest Power and Conservation Council</li><li>• <b>Yvonne Vallette</b>, Aquatic Ecologist, E.P.A. Region 10</li><li>• <b>Michelle Bahnick, PWS</b>, Wetland Biologist, Tulalip Tribes</li></ul>
4:15 pm	<i>Closing Remarks and Adjourn</i> ; SCBA ILS Annual Meeting

**Washington State Bar Ass'n 6.0 CLE credits approval pending, including 1.0 ethics credit**

To register, please visit <https://www.spokanebar.org/events-calendar/>.  
Registration is \$150 for in-person and \$250 for remote attendance; tax-deductible donations may be made to the SCBA ILS bar scholarship.

## **SPEAKER BIOS**

**LISA BROWN** is the 48th Mayor of the City of Spokane. As an economist, former state legislator, former Chancellor of WSU Spokane, and the former Director of the Washington State Department of Commerce, Lisa has spent her career working to bring resources and investments to Spokane. She loves this city for its people, neighborhoods, and quality of life, including abundant access to nature. On the weekends, you can find Lisa hiking with her husband Brian across the many trails in the region or enjoying on of Spokane's many parks with her grandson Blaze.

**MICHELLE BAHNICK, PWS,** is the Wetland Biologist for the Tulalip Tribes of Washington Natural and Cultural Resources Division. They manage the Tribes' Wetland Program in order to preserve, protect, enhance, restore, and manage wetlands and their functions for the benefit of the Tulalip Tribes now and into the future. Prior to their work with the Tulalip Tribes, Michelle worked in environmental consulting conducting field assessments, evaluating projects for consistency with relevant local, state, and federal codes, and preparing materials for permitting. They hold a M.S. in Biology from Western Washington University, a B.A. in Biology from Earlham College, and a certificate in Wetland Science and Management from the University of Washington.

**JOSH CLAUSE** is the principal at Clause Law, P.L.L.C. a law and policy firm dedicated to serving Indian Country and based in Washington, D.C. He advocates for his clients before federal and tribal courts, on Capitol Hill with Congress, and across federal agencies. Josh's expertise lies in federal Indian policy, the federal legislative process, Indian gaming, tribal economic development, and nation building. Before launching Clause Law, he was a partner at Sixkiller Consulting, where he helped the firm create a nationally-ranking tribal practice. Prior to that he spent several years at Dentons US, LLP where he was a managing associate in the Native American Law & Policy Practice. Josh earned his B.A. from Dartmouth College and his J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School. He is a citizen of the Mohawk Nation enrolled at Six Nations of the Grand River Territory in Ohsweken, Ontario, Canada.

**JEANNE MARIE CLAVERE** is a 1987 graduate of the University of Puget Sound School of Law (now Seattle University School of Law). Prior to earning her law degree, she received a Master of Business Administration from DePaul University in Chicago. In February 2010, she joined the staff of the Washington State Bar Association as Professional Responsibility Counsel. After four years with a Seattle law firm, Jeanne Marie began her solo practice in 1992, focusing on estate planning, elder law (including complex guardianships, trusts, and guardian ad litem appointments), and contract based criminal prosecution. As Senior Professional Responsibility Counsel, Jeanne Marie serves as an advisor to members of the bar on the Rules of Professional Conduct as they apply to WSBA Advisory Ethics Opinions, the Rules for Enforcement of Lawyer Conduct, and the ABA Standards for Imposing Lawyer Sanctions. She has been invited to lecture on Professionalism, Civility, and Ethics at all three Washington law schools, for the American Bar Association, for the National Organization of Bar Counsel, and speaks at various local bar CLE's throughout the state. Jeanne Marie staffs the WSBA Ethics Line and wants every attendee to commit the number to memory and call her first, not after they run into an ethical dilemma.

While in private practice Jeanne Marie appeared before a wide range of courts and tribunals, ranging from Ex Parte hearings to trials on guardianship and criminal issues, and served for many years as a Settlement, Litigation, Adoption, Family Law, Incapacity and Probate Guardian ad Litem in King and Snohomish Counties. Jeanne Marie is Past President of the state Washington Women Lawyers, past Chair of the Washington State Bar Association Elder Law Section and served on the executive committee of the King County Bar Association

Guardianship and Elder Law Section. She is a member of the American Bar Association and the ABA's Center for Professional Responsibility, is a Washington Fellow of the American Bar Foundation and is an Emeritus Member of the William L. Dwyer Inn of Court. Jeanne Marie also serves as the Past President of the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations and as their delegate to the American Bar Association. She is a past director on the board of the International Action Network for Gender Equity and Law.

*Opinions expressed herein are the author's and do not necessarily represent the official or unofficial position of the Washington State Bar Association or the WSBA Advancement Department. Members seeking guidance or information about ethics may contact WSBA Professional Responsibility Counsel on the Ethics Line at 206-727-8284*

**LUKE ESSER** is an attorney licensed in Washington state since 11/16/1989 and a veteran government affairs advocate. Luke previously served as a State Senator, State Representative, Outreach Director at the State Attorney General's Office and Chairman of the Washington State Republican Party. He received his J.D. from the University of Washington in 1989 and his MBA from UW in 2013.

**REPRESENTATIVE DEBRA/LEKANOFF** represents the 40th/legislative district/of Washington state,/which includes parts of Whatcom, Skagit and San Juan counties. She is a proud mom who fights every day to ensure younger generations, including her daughter Emma, can continue to flourish. She is inclusive in her decision-making process by listening to stakeholders, citizens and governmental bodies. She is known for her experience and capacity to work with vast parties, and on vast issues, and get the job done. Sworn in to the Washington State House of Representatives in January 2019, Representative Lekanoff/is the only Native American woman to currently serve in the Legislature.

Representative Lekanoff has called the Skagit Valley home for almost 20 years. In addition to serving in the Legislature, Representative Lekanoff/served as Governmental Affairs Director for the Swinomish Tribe. With over 20 years of government relations experience,/she engages on a variety of issues at the international, federal, tribal, state, and local levels.

Representative Lekanoff's background and experience provide valuable knowledge and perspectives that allow her to lead/on a wide range of policy issues, including but not limited to, environment, natural resources, climate change, education, housing, and agriculture./To learn more about Rep. Lekanoff's work in each of these areas, please visit her issues page. Representative Lekanoff is Vice Chair of the House State Government & Tribal Relations Committee. She also sits on the Appropriations Committee and the Rural Development, Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee.

**MICHAEL M. MORAN** is a public affairs professional with extensive experience in lobbying, public advocacy and campaign finance compliance and political action committees (PAC's). Subject matter expertise includes Economic Development, Environmental Issues, Health Care, Indian Affairs, Lobbying, Regulatory Issues, and Taxation. Mr. Moran was Director of Public Affairs for the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, Auburn, WA in 2001. He received his MS degree in Political Communications from Eastern Washington University in 1985.

**JUDGE GLORIA OCHOA-BRUCK** was elected to serve as Municipal Court Judge Position 3 for the City of Spokane November 2021. Judge Ochoa-Bruck is the first Latina to be elected to the bench in Spokane County.

Prior to her election, she served the Kalispel Tribe as Associate Judge for Kalispel Tribal Court. She previously served the Spokane Tribe as Chief Judge for Spokane Tribal Court.

Gloria commenced her legal career serving as a Benton County Deputy Prosecuting Attorney before transitioning into private practice with a focus on State and Federal felony matters. In addition, she practiced family law, business law, personal injury, and administrative law.

Gloria served as Director of Local Government and Multi-Cultural Affairs for the City of Spokane from 2013-2019. The focus of her work was on regional criminal justice reform initiatives and serving as community liaison. She served the Kalispel Tribal Economic Authority as Senior Director of Inclusion and Diversity. She has served as an Adjunct Professor at Gonzaga University School of Law and Whitworth University.

Gloria was appointed to serve as a Commissioner for the Commission on Hispanic Affairs by Governor Gregoire in August of 2012 and was re-appointed to a second term by Governor Inslee in November of 2015 and served as Chair. Gloria is a graduate of the Washington Leadership Institute, Leadership Tri-Cities Class XII, Leadership Spokane 2012, and the 2014 Just Lead Leadership Academy.

Gloria is founder and Past President of the Latino Hope Foundation, served three terms as Board Member of the Washington State Bar Association Client Protection Board, Co-Vice President of Eastern Washington for the Latina/o Bar Association of Washington, and Trustee for the Spokane County Bar Association.

Gloria currently serves on the Board of Directors for Providence Health Systems Mission Board. She serves as Trustee for the Washington State Bar Association Foundation, the American Bar Association's Women in Criminal Justice Task Force, and is a member of Rotary Club 21. Gloria is Board Director on the Numerica Credit Union Board of Directors, a not-for-profit whose mission is to enhance lives, fulfill dreams, and build communities.

Gloria holds a Juris Doctor from the University of Idaho College of Law, a Master of Business Administration from Washington State University, a Master of Arts in Criminal Justice and Criminology from Washington State University, and a bachelor's degree in business administration from Washington State University.

**LAURA ROBINSON** is the Policy Analyst for the Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT) where she focuses on tribal, state, and federal policies that impact the UCUT tribes' natural resources in the Columbia River Basin. Prior to starting at UCUT in January 2020, Laura worked in regional government as a tribal relations advisor and program analyst. Laura has an Executive Master of Public Administration and a Bachelor of Science, both from Portland State University.

**JOHN SHURTS** is the General Counsel for the Northwest Power and Conservation Council in Portland, Oregon, an interstate compact agency formed by the states of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. Under the Northwest Power Act of 1980, the Council develops a regional conservation and generation power plan for the Pacific Northwest and a fish and wildlife protection and mitigation program for the Columbia River Basin, plans and programs largely implemented by agencies of the United States government. Shurts has a law degree from Lewis and Clark Law School in Portland and a Ph.D. in American History from the University of Oregon, with a book on the origin and development of Indian reserved water rights, *Indian Reserved Water Rights: The Winters Doctrine in its Social and Legal Context, 1880s-1930s* (2000). He also speaks and consults separately on Indian water rights and river matters in areas outside the Columbia River basin, most recently as an adviser to the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council.

**YVONNE VALLETTE** is an Aquatic Ecologist with the Wetlands and Oceans Section in Region 10's Water Division. For the last twenty-seven years she has worked Region 10's Oregon Operations Office in Portland primarily serving as the Region's coordinator for enhancing State and Tribal Programs which includes overseeing the Region's Wetland Program Development Grants. Her work with EPA is focused on the

technical and policy aspects of the Clean Water Act (CWA), including Section 404, and serving as the EPA Program Manager for the Lower Columbia and Tillamook Estuary Programs. Her practicable experience includes work in wetland monitoring and assessment, 404 enforcement, compensatory mitigation, CWA jurisdiction, 404 program assumption, and aquatic resources restoration.