

# Julie Ann Fishel

P.O. Box 211171  
Crescent Valley, Nevada 89821  
775-468-0230 [julieannfishel@igc.org](mailto:julieannfishel@igc.org)

## EXPERIENCE

Director, Land Recognition Program

Western Shoshone Defense Project, Crescent Valley, Nevada  
(September 2002 to present)

Program Director at non-profit advocacy organization involving decades long dispute with the United States government over native title to approximately 60 million acres of land in Nevada, Idaho, Utah and California. Duties include:

- Strategic planning using multi-faceted human rights advocacy, including international human rights mechanisms, corporate action, government relations and media/public relations work.
- Alliance building with local, national and international organizations and indigenous nations.
- Development of written materials for wide range of audiences.
- Organization and facilitation of Shoshone community meetings for internal capacity building.
- Research and analysis of ongoing and planned corporate and governmental activities on the disputed land base.

Attorney

Winthrop & Weinstine, P.A., Minneapolis, Minnesota  
(August 1998 to September 2002)

Litigation and government relations associate. Served as interim general counsel to tribal government with responsibility for all governmental and business contracts, supervision of outside legal counsel, relationship with county, state and federal agencies, employment issues, tribal governmental and court reform. Experience also includes corporate and securities law, nuclear regulation and energy law, and Indian law, both domestically and internationally on land and cultural rights, tribal jurisdiction and sovereignty.

- Represented corporate and non-profit clients, individuals and tribal governments.
- Experience in litigation, general corporate, legislative and administrative/regulatory work.
- Selected as a "Rising Star" by *Minnesota Law and Politics* in 2000.
- Lead counsel for Plaintiff in one of *Minnesota Law and Politics*' "Lawsuits of the Year".
- Received *Minnesota Lawyer's* "Up and Coming Attorneys" Award for 2002-2003.

## **BAR ADMISSIONS**

Minnesota, Lower Sioux Community in Minnesota Tribal Court, Prairie Island Mdewakanton Dakota Community Tribal Court, Federal District Courts for the District of Minnesota and the Western District of Wisconsin, Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

## **EDUCATION**

### Legal

University of Iowa College of Law, Iowa City, Iowa

J.D. (May 1998) *Special Honors with Distinction*

E.A. McDermott International Law Scholarship (1996-1997)

Geneva Summer Program on Indigenous Peoples Scholarship (1996)

Journal of Transnational Law and Contemporary Problems, Assoc. Editor

Jessup International Moot Court (1996-1998)

### Undergraduate

University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa

B.A.: Global Studies (May 1995), *with Distinction and Honors*

Commencement Speaker, College of Liberal Arts (May 1995)

Honors Thesis: *Local Human Rights Organizations in Nigeria: Implications for International Action*

## **PUBLICATIONS**

*Mary and Carrie Dann v. United States at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights: Victory for Indian Land Rights and Environment*, TULANE ENVIRONMENTAL LAW REVIEW (Volume 16, Winter 2002, Issue 1). (Co-authored with Deborah Schaaf).

*U.S. Indian Law in the International Perspective*, MINNESOTA INSTITUTE LEGAL EDUCATION (Feb. 2002). (Written materials and CLE presentation).

*Indian Law Issues: Fee to Trust Land Transfers*, MINNESOTA INSTITUTE LEGAL EDUCATION (April 2001) (Written materials and CLE presentation).

*State Initiatives in Rulemaking Reform (1995-2000)*, XXII FORC Quart. J. of Ins. L. & Reg. (Dec. 2000). (Co-authored with John A. Knapp).

## **PRESENTATIONS/SEMINARS**

### Seminars/Courses

University of Arizona, College of Law, Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy Program, *International Human Rights Advocacy*, Seminar, Oct. 2006, Tucson, Arizona.

Colorado School of Mines, *Humanitarian Engineering Ethics*, Seminar, Oct. 2006, Golden, Colorado.

Six Nations/Iroquois Confederacy, *International Human Rights Advocacy and Indigenous Peoples*, Onandanga, Six Nations, July 2006.

University of St. Thomas College of Law, *Human Rights Lawyering*, January 2006, Miami, Florida.

Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights CLE program, *International Human Rights Advocacy and Domestic Application – Indigenous Rights*, June 2005, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Selected Presentations and Panels.

*Land Restoration Tracking* (Indian Land Working Group Annual Symposium, Cabazon, California, October 2006).

*Indigenous Womens' West Coast Speaking Tour* (With Carrie Dann, Louise Benally and Rosalie Little Thunder, Portland to San Francisco, June 2006).

*Strategies of Resistance: Empowering the Indigenous Rights Movement* (Indigenous Environmental Network, Annual Conference, Bemidji, Minnesota, July 2006).

*Implementing Effective Strategies for the Indigenous Rights Movement* (Ivy League Native Students Association Annual Conference, Cornell University, New York, May 2006).

*Western Shoshone Victory at the United Nations* (International Law Conference, University of Idaho College of Law, March 2006).

*Indigenous Rights Workshop* (U.S. Human Rights Network, Annual Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, November 2005).

*Impairment of Indian Rights – U.S. Federal Indian Law and Policy and Western Shoshone Struggle* (Oklahoma Supreme Court Sovereignty Symposium, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, June 2005).

*Asserting Natural Rights to Protect Indigenous Lands and Resources* (Western Mining Action Network, Annual Conference, Coeur D'Alene, Idaho, October 2005).

*Indigenous Rights in the U.S. Panel* (Ford Foundation, *Close to Home Conference*, New York, New York, June 2004).

Amnesty International Indigenous Rights Speaking Tour with Carrie Dann, Western Shoshone grandmother and activist. Presentations given at University of Washington, University of St. Louis, Illinois Wesleyan University, University of New Mexico Law School (October 2003)

*Defending the Defenders: Indigenous Land and Cultural Rights* (Amnesty International, JUSTEARTH! Youth Forum, Minneapolis, Minnesota, March 2003).

*Using International Law in Your Case* (National Congress of American Indians Bi-Annual Conference, San Diego, California, November 2002).

*Win-Win Solutions: Negotiations Workshop for Tribal Leaders.* (InterTribal Council of Nevada, Annual Conference, Reno, Nevada, October 2002).

#### **RELATED ACTIVITIES**

University of Iowa Center for Human Rights, Iowa City, Iowa (1999 to present)  
Society of Center Fellow.

National Lawyers Guild (1996 to 2003)  
Member.

Centro Legal, Minneapolis, Minnesota (2000, 2001)  
Honorary Event Co-chair

Richfield Human Rights Commission, Richfield, Minnesota (Jan. 1999 to 2001) City-appointed commissioner.

Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights, Minneapolis, Minnesota (Aug. 1998 to 2002)  
Advisory Committee Member, International Child Survival Project. Volunteer attorney, Asylum Law Project.

Volunteer Lawyers Network, Minneapolis, Minnesota (1998 to 2002)  
Volunteer Attorney.

Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services, St. Paul, Minnesota (1999 to 2002)  
Campaign for Legal Aid, Generation Next Group, volunteer attorney and invited speaker.

United Nations Association-USA, Iowa Division, Iowa City, Iowa (1993 to 1995)  
Vice-President of Membership, Conference and Symposium Coordinator.

Iowa City Committee on Foreign Relations, Iowa City, Iowa (1993 to 1996)  
Member

Red Cross of America, Iowa City, Iowa and Minneapolis, Minnesota (1995 to 1996; 1998 to 2000)  
Disaster Response Volunteer

Latin American Human Rights Advocacy Center, Iowa City, Iowa (1992 to 1995)

Member, fund raising and publicity assistant to Executive Director.

#### **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

- Local** Minnesota State Bar Association (1998 to present)  
Committees:  
Human Rights Committee, Co-chair (Aug. 1999 to 2002)  
Committee on Rules of Professional Conduct, member  
Legal Assistance to Disadvantaged Committee, member  
Minnesota American Indian Bar Association (1999 to 2003)  
Minnesota Governmental Relations Council (June 2000 to 2003)  
Hennepin County Bar Association (1998 to 2002)
- National** Federal Bar Association (1998 to 2003)  
Sections:  
International Law; Administrative Law  
American Bar Association  
Sections:  
Individual Rights and Responsibilities; International Law and Practice  
Committees:  
OHADA (Organisation pour l'Harmonisation en Afrique de Droit des Affaires)  
Uniform Statute Committee, member, Phase I & II (1999-2000)  
American Society of International Law (1999-2002)  
Sections:  
Rights of Indigenous Peoples Interest Group;  
Africa Interest Group; International Economic Law Interest Group

#### **SUMMARY OF CASEWORK**

##### International:

*Western Shoshone v. U.S.* United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination – Urgent Action Request under Urgent Action and Early Warning Procedure. In coordination with University of Arizona Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy Program, assist Western Shoshone National Council and communities in legal action and lobbying against U.S. violations of indigenous land and resource rights. Received favorable full decision in March 2006 (Decision 1 (68)).

*Dann v. U.S.*, Case No. 11.140, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Organization of American States, In coordination with the Indian Law Resource Center, represented Western Shoshone grandmothers, Mary and Carrie Dann, on successful land and resource rights petition. Received favorable Final Report December 2002.

*Moiwana '86 Human Rights Organization Suriname on Behalf of the Victims, Survivors and Dependents of the Moiwana Massacre v. the Government of Suriname, Inter-American Court on Human Rights, Organization of American States.* In coordination

with Moiwana '86 Human Rights Organization, represented survivors and dependents of individuals killed in 1986 massacre by government militia in reparations case.

*De Vereniging van Saramakaanse Gezagsdragers (Association of Saramaka Authorities) on behalf of the Saramaka People, Lös and Communities of the Upper Suriname River and Twelve Saramaka Captains Acting in their Individual Capacity and on behalf of the Twelve Saramaka Lös v. Republic of Suriname*, Case No. 12.338, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. In coordination with the Forest Peoples Project, representing tribal Saramakans in Suriname in legal action against the government for failure to recognize territorial rights.

Domestic:

*Nevada v. Hicks*, No. 99-1994, on *Writ of Certiorari* to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, U.S. Supreme Court. Represented Fallon Paiute-Shoshone tribal member in case challenging the right of tribal member to bring federal and tribal causes of action in tribal court for actions taken against him by state game wardens on Indian trust land.

*Alaska v. U.S.*, No. 128, Original Jurisdiction, U.S. Supreme Court. Represented Alaska native communities' subsistence rights to submerged lands off the coast of southeast Alaska.

*Sokaogon Chippewa Community, et al. v Babbitt, et al.*, Appeal No. 00-1137, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. Represented tribal government in *Amicus Curiae* filing based on Department of Interior's denial of the right to consultation.

*Prairie Island Indian Community v. Babbitt*, Case No. 00-1662, Federal District Court, District of Minnesota. Represented tribal government in action brought pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act based on violation of the right to consultation under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. (Chosen one of the lawsuits of the year (2000) by *Minnesota Law and Politics*).

*Prairie Island Indian Community v. Minnesota Department of Public Safety*, Case No. 2-C5-01-008766, State of Minnesota, County of Ramsey. Represented tribal government in action brought pursuant to the Minnesota Data Practices Act based on threatened release of tribal audit information.