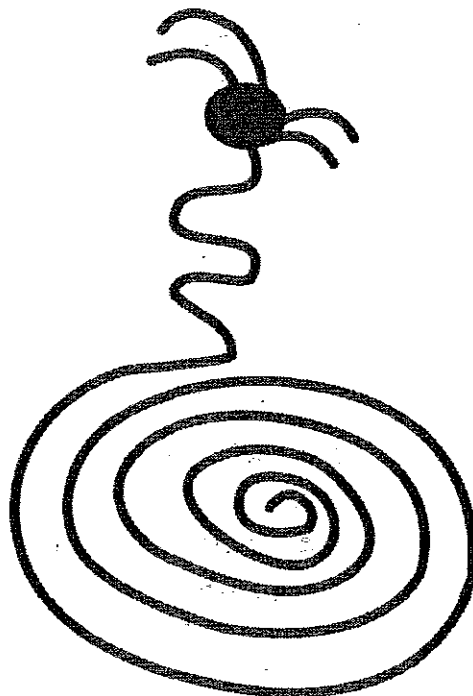


**36th Annual
Federal Bar Association
Indian Law Conference**

2011 Award Recipients



**Friday, April 8, 2011
Hilton Buffalo Thunder
Pueblo of Pojaque**

Indian Law Section Service Award

William Wood

William Wood is an associate in the Holland & Knight's Indian Law Practice Group in the Los Angeles office and also works in the firm's Private Wealth Services Dispute Resolution Group. He represents Indian tribes in various tribal, federal, and state law matters. Wood has experience representing tribes in commercial transactions; complex financings, both high-yield and tax-exempt; administrative matters, including all aspects of the land-into-trust process; the development of legal and political infrastructure, including the drafting of tribal laws and the creation of government and economic development entities; drafting intergovernmental agreements; and labor and employment matters. He also represents tribes and tribal entities in litigation in federal and state courts, with an emphasis on sovereignty and jurisdictional issues. Before coming to Holland & Knight, Wood worked as a summer clerk in the San Diego office of a national boutique law firm; he also worked on legal issues for the Wishtoyo Foundation, Alternatives for Community & Environment, and the Human Rights Division of the International Labor Organization.

PROFESSIONAL HONORS & AWARDS

Federal Indian Law (Newsletter of the Federal Bar Association Indian Law Section), Editor-in-Chief; *UCLA Law Review*, Articles Editor.

COURT ADMISSIONS

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit; U.S. District Court for the Central District of California; U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California; U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California; and U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California.

PUBLISHED ARTICLES

- "The Trajectory of Indian Country in California: Rancherías, Villages, Pueblos, Missions, Ranchos, Reservations, Colonies, and Rancherías," *Tulsa Law Review*, Winter 2008;
- "What Should You Expect in an Audit?," *Native American Casino*, August 2009;
- "The Trajectory of Indian Country in California: Rancherías, Villages, Pueblos, Missions, Ranchos, Reservations, Colonies, and Rancherías," *Tulsa Law Review*, December 2008;
- "Tribal Casinos Are Being Audited by the IRS for Anti-Money Laundering Compliance," *Indian Law Alert*, August 25, 2008.

Lawrence R. Baca Lifetime Achievement Award

Alan R. Taradash

Throughout his career, Alan R. Taradash has represented tribal enterprises and Indian-owned businesses. As part of his longstanding commitment to Indian country and its people, he has also worked with individual Indians and Indian groups on a pro-bono basis. Taradash's dedication and contribution to Indian country is reflected in the following sampling of his work:

- He assisted in a suit against the BIA Intermountain Boarding School in Utah for punishing students for speaking their tribal languages. As a result of the suit, the school was permanently closed.
- In a trial before the U.S. Army Discharge Review Board, Taradash established that the Army had a legal duty to provide medical care in the form of traditional Navajo ceremonies.
- He conceived, designed, staffed and obtained funding for a class action on behalf of all Arizona public schools receiving Impact Aid funding to challenge the school finance laws that deprived Indian school children of the educational dollars Congress intended for them. As a result, Arizona's equalization of funding laws were rewritten entirely.
- Taradash filed a class action lawsuit against Great Western Bank alleging illegal redlining practices by the bank. He secured a consent decree implementing the relief Plaintiffs sought.
- He helped pursue pollution cases on behalf of the Pueblo of Laguna against the City of Grants, the New Mexico's Environmental Improvement Division, and the EPA for the release of raw sewage onto Pueblo agricultural fields. He helped secure a settlement of damages and the building of a quality waste water treatment plant.
- Representing a Pueblo, he intervened in a state adoption proceeding to prevent the adoption of a Pueblo child who had been taken at birth from her teenage mother, and who was about to be adopted by a non-Indian family. The case was appealed all the way up to the U.S. Supreme Court and was the first case of its kind to reach the high court. As a result of Taradash's work, the child was returned to her maternal grandmother.

Mismanagement of Trust Assets Cases:

- Taradash filed a class action lawsuit against Amoco alleging oil

continued

theft by Amoco and trustee liability against the United States for failing to properly manage oil and gas assets. He secured a significant cash settlement from Amoco and an increase in the royalty rate over the life of production from the leases. (*O'Neal v. Amoco Production Co.*).

- Taradash filed a class action lawsuit on behalf of all Navajo oil and gas allottees against the Secretary of Interior for noncompliance with the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act. He helped to achieve a consent decree requiring the Secretary to comply with the Act and achieved an Equal Access to Justice Act award which was, at that time, one of the largest EAJA awards. (*Shii Shi Keyah Association v. Hodel*).

- o As a result of the *Shi Shii Keyah* case, two newspapers ran a series of investigative reports which exposed the comprehensive trust failures of the United States to tribes and allottees. These reports led to the initiation of the Senate Special Committee on Investigations and to numerous hearings that Taradash participated in extensively to educate the members of Congress, senators, their staffers, and the GAO auditors of the details of the breaches of trust duties and the cover-up. These hearings led to the seminal report "Misplaced Trust" which in turn led to the Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994.

- o Known for his expertise in the field of Indian minerals, leasing, development and production, Taradash has been appointed numerous times to various committees by the Secretary of Interior.

- In a case involving very complex land, timber, and financial accounting issues and which had been pending for over 40 years, Taradash helped secure two judgments for the Red Lake Band totaling more than \$80 million dollars—two of the highest Indian Claims Commission Act judgments ever entered for a single tribe. (*Red Lake Band of Indians v. United States*).

- In a class action lawsuit filed in 1992 against the state of Utah seeking a trust accounting, he served as co-counsel and in 2010 secured a \$33 million settlement in favor of the Navajo beneficiaries. (*Pelt v. State of Utah*).

- Taradash is currently attorney of record in the following cases against the federal government involving mismanagement of trust funds/assets:

- o *Delaware Tribe of Indians v. United States*

- o *Pueblo of Laguna v. United States*

- o *Navajo Nation v. United States*