

Whitney Gravelle

EDUCATION

Michigan State University College of Law

East Lansing, MI

Juris Doctor Cum Laude, May 2016

- Indigenous Law Certificate Program
- Native American Law Student Association Alumni Committee Chair
- Indigenous Law and Policy Center Academic Enrichment Program, Student Mentor
- 2016 National Native American Law Student Association Moot Court Competition, Sweet Sixteen
- 2015 National Native American Law Student Association Moot Court Competition, Final Eight

Michigan State University

East Lansing, MI

Bachelor of Arts in Social Science, December 2012

- Major: Interdisciplinary Studies in Social Science, International Studies with a Cognate in Political Science & Specialization in East Asian Studies
- Study Abroad at Yonsei University, Seoul, South Korea (Fall 2011)

American Indian Law Center's Pre-Law Summer Institute

Albuquerque, NM

- Practice appellate moot court case, legal research and writing focusing on the Indian Child Welfare Act.
- Honors: Best Oralist Award in ICWA oral argument presentation.

EXPERIENCE

Bay Mills Indian Community

Brimley, MI

President, Executive Council

- Serve more than 2,300 tribal citizens of Bay Mills Indian Community, a tribal government formed under the Indian Reorganization Act in 1936, which includes administration and oversight of tribal government operations and tribal enterprise operations with more than 600 employees. This includes developing strategic partnerships with local units of government.
- Provide leadership and strategic planning for execution of tribal services, devise yearly budgets, financial planning, and encourage new development and collaboration within and outside tribal operations. This includes enterprise and non-enterprise operations, involving government services, gaming, and commerce.
- Establish and develop laws, ordinances, regulations, policies and procedures, or regular processes to efficiently expand tribal government operations or business operations and revenue investment.

Bay Mills Indian Community

Brimley, MI

Tribal Attorney, Legal Department

- Act as counsel on behalf of the Tribe on any issues affecting the Tribe or any of its governmental or commercial entities. As counsel appear before all federal, state, tribal courts, tribunals, departments, agencies, and committees of Congress and State legislatures.
- Understanding of tribal and federal legislation, public policy, regulations, and complex legal structures of tribal law, federal Indian law, Indian Child Welfare Act, Indian gaming, and modern day tribal sovereignty.
- Gathered evidence in civil and other cases to formulate defense or initiate legal action, which includes interviewing clients and witnesses or other details in preparation for trial. Prepare legal briefs, develops strategy, arguments, or testimony in preparation for presentation of case.

- Ensure tribal compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and policies through regular consultation with internal entities. Work with the Executive Council, Legal Department, and other internal entities to draft tribal legislation, ordinances, resolutions, administrative rules and regulations, or other documents and instruments.

Bay Mills Tribal Court

Brimley, MI

Chief Judge

- Preside over civil and criminal cases within the jurisdiction of the Bay Mills Indian Community, which includes mediating settlement conferences in civil cases. Presided over jury trials, issued arrest and search warrants, and oversaw initial appearances, bond hearing, arraignments, and pretrial evidentiary hearings.
- Operate and preside over Healing to Wellness Court criminal matters, with a focus on substance abuse counseling, restorative justice, and cultural integration into the legal setting to provide healing and wellness to combat intergenerational trauma within the Bay Mills Indian Community.

United States Department of Justice

Washington, DC

Environment Natural Resource Division, Indian Resource Section

- Drafted briefs, complaints, and responses to motions, conducted legal research and writing on issues involving tribal land and jurisdiction, treaty hunting and fishing rights, water rights, and the scope of lands held in trust for tribes and individual Indian lands.
- Researched and wrote memorandum on tribal court systems, tribal police law enforcement regulations, and assisted with extensive regulatory research on the Indian Child Welfare Act. Observed witness interviews and depositions.

State of Michigan Supreme Court

Lansing, MI

Chambers of the Honorable Justice Bridget McCormack

- Legal research and writing on issues before the Michigan Supreme Court, helped conduct research for court opinions on the Indian Child Welfare Act, licensing regulations, Michigan No-Fault Insurance, health insurance benefits, armed robbery, assault, and the sentencing regulations for Michigan courts.

State of Michigan Department of Attorney General

Lansing, MI

Health, Education, and Family Services Division

- Assisted legal staff in witness interviews, and helped with preparation for trial in administrative proceedings, drafted appellate briefs, complaints, and responses to motions, and conducted legal research and writing on issues concerning administrative law, sexual assault, and childcare and adult licensing regulations.

Michigan State University College of Law

East Lansing, MI

Indigenous Law and Policy Center Clinic

- Provided direct services to tribes across the United States, drafted amici briefs, and researched and wrote memoranda on tribal court systems, tribal ordinances and court statutes, and the Indian Child Welfare Act.

Native American Rights Fund

Boulder, CO

Law Clerk

- Conducted extensive legal research and writing on federal Indian law issues, including the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, education programs, voting rights, and water rights. Assisted staff attorneys with expert witness testimony and preparation of evidentiary investigation.

Udall Foundation Native American Congressional Internship

Washington, DC

Office of the United States Congressman Raul M. Grijalva

- Legal research of legislation, regulations, and public law concerning immigration, education, and the climate change impact on indigenous populations. Drafted public policy, speeches, and memorandum concerning education on tribal reservations, immigration, public land trust, and environmental regulation.

Navajo Nation Department of Justice

Windowrock, AZ

Economic and Community Development Department

- Completed legal research reports and memorandum on grant commissions, financial regulations, and economic issues concerning the Navajo Nation.

COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

Department of Interior, Secretary’s Tribal Advisory Committee

Washington, DC

Committee Chair

- Identify developing issues of concern and potential barriers to the delivery or receipt of services and programs provided by the Department’s bureaus and offices to Tribes.
- Advance recommendations and clarifications directly to the Department’s leadership to address issues raised at Tribal, national, and regional levels.
- Provide a forum to discuss and evaluate implementation of and proposed changes to the Department’s regulations, policies, and procedures, including those related to Tribal consultation.
- Examine priorities and advise on appropriate strategies for Tribal consultation on issues at the Tribal, national, or regional levels.
- Support the timely transmission of information on issues of concern and policies related to the Department’s services and programs to Tribal leadership within the BIA Regions.

United States Department of Agriculture, Secretary’s Tribal Advisory Committee

Washington, DC

- Identify evolving issues of relevance to Tribal Nations relating to programs of the Department, and discuss issues and proposals for changes to the regulations, policies, and procedures of the Department that impact Tribal Nations.
- Identify priorities and provide advice on appropriate strategies for Tribal consultation on issues at the Tribal, regional, or national level regarding the Department.
- Ensure that pertinent issues of the Department are brought to the attention of an Tribal Nation in a timely manner so that timely feedback can be obtained and solutions can be proposed for interdepartmental barriers.

Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority

1836 Treaty Territory – Michigan

- CORA is a consortium of five federally recognized Tribal Nations in Michigan that are parties to the 1836 Treaty of Washington with the United States; they are: Bay Mills Indian Community; Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians; Little River Band of Ottawa Indians; Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians; and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.
- Engaged in commercial and subsistence treaty regulation on the waters of the Great Lakes and inland territories of the State of Michigan.

Bay Mills Community College

Bay Mills, MI

Board of Regents, Chairperson

- As a tribally controlled community college and land grant institution, the mission of Bay Mills Community College is to provide quality educational opportunities, promote research and facilitate individual

development in an accessible, community-based, and culturally diverse environment that supports and maintains the Anishinaabek culture and language.

- In carrying out our mission, the BMCC Board of Regents stresses a positive, student-centered atmosphere, which promotes preservation of the customs and beliefs of Native Americans. The curriculum is designed to integrate traditional Native American values with higher education as a way of preparing students to assume responsible roles in their respective communities.

Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan

Sault Ste. Marie, MI

Board of Directors, Chairperson

- To advocate for member tribes in the development of programs and policies which will improve the economy, education, and quality of life for Michigan's Native Americans; and
- To provide technical assistance to member tribes, assisting in the development of tribal regulations, ordinances, and policies applicable to health and human services.

Michigan Advisory Council on Environmental Justice

Lansing, MI

Commissioner

- The Michigan Advisory Council on Environmental Justice is the State of Michigan's first Environmental Justice advisory council. Members represent an intentional combination of frontline activists, advocacy organizations, academia, tribal representation, local governments, business and industry, public health, and labor to advocate for immediate relief to frontline communities while simultaneously supporting development of long-term, sustainable Environmental Justice solutions.