

Heidi J. Todacheene

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

U.S. House of Representatives – Rep. Deb Haaland (NM-01), Washington, D.C.

January 2019 - Present

Legislative Counsel

Provide policy recommendations and write Indian Country, telecommunications, agriculture, and finance legislation for the first Native American Congresswoman. Introduced and manage 25 of 54 total pieces of office legislation, including 3 tribal bills signed into law and 3 House-passed amendments. Led Congressional Amicus Briefs (*Mashpee Wampanoag v. Interior & Penobscot v. Maine*). Wrote over 70 speeches, 80 letters, and hearing materials. Met with over 300 Tribes.

116th Congressional Native American Caucus, Washington, D.C.

January 2019 - Present

Democratic Director

Establish bipartisan Indian Country priorities for 95 member offices in U.S. House of Representatives with Republican Caucus Director on behalf of Co-Chairs, Reps. Deb Haaland (D-NM) & Tom Cole (R-OK). Developed and negotiated stimulus package requests with leadership offices including \$8 billion Coronavirus Relief Funds and \$1 billion for Indian Health Service funds passed in CARES Act. Assist tribal organizations to brief congressional staff on current issues.

Navajo Nation Washington Office, Washington, D.C.

December 2017 – January 2019

Government & Legislative Affairs Associate

Represent Navajo Nation before Federal government (Executive Branch & Legislative Branch), state governments, other tribal governments, and national organizations. Advise President, Council Delegates, and elected leadership on federal and state policy issues. Develop federal political strategy for Nation's governmental and legislative affairs.

Southwest Intertribal Court of Appeals, Albuquerque, NM

October 2017 – January 2019

Assistant Judge

Write and edit legal opinions for Tribes that lack financial resources or governmental infrastructure for intermediary courts. Interpret tribal code and apply applicable law to render decisions for appellate civil and criminal cases with panel of judges.

McGinn, Carpenter, Montoya & Love, P.A., Albuquerque, NM

March 2017 - September 2017

Attorney

Litigated medical malpractice and wrongful death cases in state and federal court. Drafted and filed motions, trial briefs, discovery requests/responses, pleadings and correspondence. Met with clients. Analyzed cases to determine scope of client representation and provided referrals. Defended depositions. Conducted jury verdict research for trial preparation.

New Mexico Indian Affairs Department, Santa Fe, NM

October 2015 - June 2016

Advanced Management Analyst

Researched and wrote legal memorandum advising General Counsel and Policy Unit on ramifications of legislation introduced by state legislators. Advised Secretary on potential results of policy initiatives by researching federal, state and tribal laws. Worked with state agencies as tribal liaison to resolve legal and legislative issues impacting Tribes/Pueblos.

United States Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.

May 2014 - August 2014

Office of Tribal Justice Law Clerk & Udall Foundation Congressional Intern

Advised Associate Attorney General on public hearing material for the Attorney General's Task Force in Alaska. Wrote memo critiquing the Violence Against Women Act applicability of sentencing provisions for national publication. Drafted legal memorandum on prosecution of non-Indians and political corruption in Tribes. Met with 113th U.S. Congress Senators.

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

State Bar of New Mexico Attorney Bar Examination Preparation Coach, Present

Emerge New Mexico Leadership Program, 2018

BAR ADMISSIONS

District of Columbia Bar

June 2020

United States District Court for the District of New Mexico

July 2017

New Mexico State Bar

September 2016

EDUCATION

University of New Mexico School of Law, Albuquerque, NM

Juris Doctor, (b) (6)

Law of Indigenous Peoples Certificate

Honors: Honors in Clinical Law, Southwest Indian Law Clinic

Tribal Law Journal, Editorial Board Director

Publication: "She Saves Us from Monsters": Navajo Creation Stories and Modern Tribal Justice, 15 T.L.J. 2 (2015).

University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM

Bachelor of Arts in English, (b) (6)

Honors: *magna cum laude*