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HEATHER DAWN THOMPSONwww.HeatherDawnThompson.com**EDUCATION****HARVARD LAW SCHOOL***Juris Doctorate**cum laude***UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA***M.A., Public Policy**honors***CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY***B.A., International Studies**Honors***EXPERIENCE****GREENBERG TRAURIG • American Indian Law Practice Group**

2014–present

Indian Law & Agribusiness Practice Group Attorney

Washington, DC/ Rapid City, SD

Heather is considered one of the preeminent national experts in rural tribal economic development policy and law. Responsible for a national team of Indian law expert lawyers, paralegals, and legal assistants juggling dozens of complex cases and clients' needs. She balances clients' legal needs while balancing their legal budgets – running from thousands to millions of dollars per year.

Heather's practice focuses on Federal Indian law, economic development, policy, and advocacy. Advocacy work includes state, local, tribal and federal advocacy with both legislative and executive branches, as well as public and community outreach. Tribal economic development work includes multiple industries with a specialization in rural economic development, tribal agriculture, tribal hemp, finance, tribal corporate structuring (tribal corporations and Section 17s), tribal and federal tax and finance policy, tribal business codes, and deal structuring.

Ms. Thompson is nationally known for her impactful work. She runs the national TeCC Tribal Hemp Working Group, an intertribal of dozens of large-land-based rural tribal nations and tribal leaders coordinating resources and strategy on tribal hemp production and processing. She is a leader in the Native Farm Bill Coalition and a member of the team credited for the successful inclusion of tribes in the hemp section of the 2018 Farm Bill. Ms. Thompson was instrumental in including tribes in the CARES Act addressing the economic and health impacts of COVID-19 in Indian Country.

UNITED TRIBES TECHNICAL COLLEGE/UNITED TRIBES OF NORTH DAKOTA

2014-2019

Professor • Legal Counsel

Bismarck, ND/Rapid City, SD

United Tribes Technical College (UTTC) is a tribal government owned college, with a board consisting of the tribal Chairmen of all five of the tribes located in North Dakota. Ms. Thompson taught Federal Indian Law and designed the college's inaugural Crime Scene Investigations class. Responsible for balancing the needs of dozens of Native American students who faced a variety of personal and academic challenges. She is also credited with blazing a trail for the college to expand to a new campus in Rapid City, South Dakota.

In addition, Ms. Thompson concurrently served as in-house counsel to the College and as counsel to the inter-tribal association for North Dakota, the United Tribes of North Dakota (UTND). In such capacity, Ms. Thompson coordinated numerous staff and team members, and provided legal guidance and leadership to the President of the College, and the Chairmen of all five tribal nations located in North Dakota on a breadth and complexity of legal and policy topics.

US ATTORNEY'S OFFICE SOUTH DAKOTA • Indian Country Section

2011-2014

Assistant United States Attorney

Pine Ridge/Rapid City, SD

Ms. Thompson served as one of the nation's inaugural Indian Country Federal Prosecutors on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. She was recruited aggressively by the US Attorney after her groundbreaking work with the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA), leaving a thriving private practice to work together to implement some of the historical goals of the new judicial reform laws. Ms. Thompson covered felony crimes emanating from Pine Ridge, with a special focus on violent crimes and sexual violence against Native women and children.

Ms. Thompson oversaw an extensive team of federal investigators, lawyers, and paralegals in designing and bringing each case to trial in federal court. Ms. Thompson designed and launched the first Indian Country Community Prosecution Pilot Program, working directly with the Oglala Sioux Tribe and the community on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Ms. Thompson's groundbreaking work was so impactful that she was commended by the Oglala Sioux Tribe's Attorney General.

DENTONS (SONNENSCHN, NATH & ROSENTHAL LLP)

2009-2011

Partner

Washington, DC

Ms. Thompson made history when she became one of the first Native Americans named an Equity Partner of an "AmLaw 100" law firm at Sonnenschein (SNR) (now Dentons). Ms. Thompson led SNR's Indian Law Public Policy team of lawyers, paralegals, and legal assistants. The scope of her work included state and federal advocacy, rural economic development, tribal agriculture, finance, and homeland security/law enforcement. Clients included Tribal governments and Tribal corporations.

Heather's practice focuses on Federal Indian law, economic development, policy, and advocacy. Advocacy work includes state, local, tribal and federal advocacy with both legislative and executive branches, as well as public and community outreach. Tribal economic development work includes multiple industries with a specialization in rural economic development, tribal agriculture, tribal hemp, finance, tribal corporate structuring (tribal corporations and Section 17s), tribal and federal tax and finance policy, tribal business codes, and deal structuring.

NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS (NCAI)

2006-2009

Director of Government Affairs

Washington, DC

A new position, the Director of Government Affairs, was created for Ms. Thompson in joining the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI). NCAI is the oldest and largest body representing American Indian Tribal governments, with a multi-million-dollar annual budget. Ms. Thompson had responsibility for managing the entire legislative and public policy staffs and budgets. She coordinated the national Tribal education and outreach campaigns to Congress and the Executive Branch for all 560+ tribal nations on dozens of subject matters at any given moment.

In addition to her managerial and budget responsibilities, Ms. Thompson's substantive expertise focused on tribal tax, finance, tribal agriculture, rural economic development, tribal sovereignty and jurisdiction, state-tribal relations, law enforcement, tribal courts, and homeland security.

Specifically, Ms. Thompson is credited with designing, organizing, and running a broad scope of nationwide successful tribal advocacy campaigns to reauthorize the Farm Bill, Indian Health Care bill, and pass the Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA), Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), ARRA, and the Native Vote Election Protection Project. She is credited with being an important and impactful strategist in Indian Country.

UNITED STATES SENATE • DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE

2004-2005

Counsel/Policy Advisor • *Judiciary and Indian Affairs*

Washington, DC

Ms. Thompson provided policy advice and counsel to DPC and her home state Senators from South and North Dakota. Her policy portfolio included Indian Affairs issues including rural economic development, agriculture, energy, sovereignty, as well as judicial reform, judicial nominations, and criminal and civil jurisdiction.

PATTON BOGGS LLP

2001-2004

Attorney

Washington, DC

Developed and implemented legislative and legal strategies, particularly on Native American affairs and Middle Eastern issues. After 9-11 when the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was struggling in its relationship with the United States, Ms. Thompson lead the substantive work of the legal and policy team. She designed a comprehensive Congressional outreach strategy, organized the substance and structure of over 400 Congressional meetings, and is credited for being the backbone of the team.

US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE • Immigration and Naturalization Service

1995-1997

Policy Analyst • *Presidential Management Fellow*

Washington, DC

Ms. Thompson served as the agency's primary policy analyst on national and international immigration law enforcement issues, including border control, international alien and narcotics smuggling, and counterterrorism. She shaped the design and implementation of the National Border Patrol Strategy and National Anti-Smuggling Strategy. Ms. Thompson was one of the few females and one of the youngest members of the law enforcement team.

SAMPLE LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

RAPID CITY INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL GRAVES/LANDS/LAND INTO TRUST

Founder/Lead Legal Researcher

2014-present

Rapid City, SD

Ms. Thompson founded what has now become a multi-year, multi-dimensional, multi-million-dollar project involving over a hundred professional and grassroots volunteers.

She identified lands where unmarked graves of the children who passed away at the RC Indian Boarding School. Ms. Thompson obtained those lands and got them placed into trust for Lakota tribal nations to protect the graves. She also identified additional land irregularities and launched state-wide education campaign. Today the project continues with 1) a \$2 million memorial park for the children who passed away www.RememberingTheChildren.org, and 2) a \$20 million land exchange negotiation with the city and federal governments for boarding school lands that were transferred in violation of the statute, www.facebook.com/SiouxSanLands/.

BUSH FELLOWSHIP

Fellow

2017-2019

Rapid City, SD

Ms. Thompson was the recipient of competitive two-year Bush Fellowship. Her fellowship focused on tribal self-sufficiency, particularly through integration of modern economic tribal development with traditional values, such as indigenous agriculture, and renewable energy.

DAKOTA PLAINS LEGAL SERVICES

Board Member

2011-2018

Rapid City, SD

The Mission of Dakota Plains Legal Services (DPLS) is to promote equal access to justice and improve the lives of our low-income clients through quality legal assistance. DPLS provides legal services free of charge to South Dakota's low-income clients. Ms. Thompson was chosen for the prestigious position as the State Bar of South Dakota's chosen representative to DPLS.

CITY OF RAPID CITY PARKS & RECREATION BOARD

Board member

2012-2014

Rapid City, SD

Ms. Thompson was appointed by Mayor of Rapid City to the Parks & Recreation Board during a time of significant racial tension in the City to assist in bridging the gap between the urban Native community and the many important city issues of relevance such as shared community spaces and urban spaces of deep historical significance to the Native population.

SOUTH DAKOTA INDIAN COUNTRY BAR ASSOCIATION

Co-Founder/President

2011-present

Rapid City, SD

The South Dakota Indian Country Bar Association provides a forum for all Native lawyers and lawyers who work in Indian Country in South Dakota, supporting tribal sovereignty and promoting education about tribal courts, and tribal and federal Indian law. Ms. Thompson was a co-founder and the SDICBA's first president.

NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION (NNABA)

President

2007-2009

Washington, DC

NNABA is the national association for Native American attorneys and attorneys who practice Indian law. NNABA works actively on legal and policy issues affecting Native communities, both nationally and within the international indigenous legal community. Responsibilities included speaking engagements, bar ethics, coordination of nominations for judicial appointments. Ms. Thompson served as the National President for two years.

FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION-INDIAN LAW SECTION

Deputy Chair

2006-2008

Washington, DC

The Federal Bar Association is the national association for attorneys with federal law practices. The Indian Law Section is one of the largest sections of the Federal Bar and represents a very large portion of practitioners in the Indian law field. Ms. Thompson was elected the Deputy Chair of the Section.

LAKOTA LANGUAGE IMMERSION PRESCHOOL CLASSROOM (AT THE BANANA BUNCH)

2013-present

Founder

Rapid City, SD

Ms. Thompson founded Rapid City's first Lakota language immersion preschool classroom. Many immersion programs are struggling with funding, and none of the existing programs are easily accessible to Lakota families living in Rapid City. This program was designed to be self-sustaining. It is a Lakota language speaking preschool classroom within a pre-existing, well-established day care center.

CHEYENNE RIVER YOUTH PROJECT (CRYP)

2001-present

Advisory Board Member

Eagle Butte, SD

CRYP is a youth center that provides after school education, art, and physical programming for children on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation. Ms. Thompson has long served on the Advisory Board of this important youth program servicing her home reservation. Ms. Thompson was responsible for raising over \$2 million in funds to help build the community's new teen center.

NATIVE AMERICAN FEDERAL JUDICIAL NOMINATION COMMITTEE

2009-2011

Member

Washington, DC

The federal courts have unique and unparalleled decision-making authority over Indian Country, yet there is only one Native American on the federal judiciary. The Judicial Nomination Committee is an informal joint project to encourage, vet, and promote Native Americans for federal judicial appointments.

TRIBAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

2004-2010

Creator/Program Manager

Washington, DC

The TPP was designed to bring much needed *pro bono* legal resources to Indian Country by matching individual Tribes and Native nonprofit organizations with large national law firms. The goal of the TPP is to fundamentally reshape the legal, economic development, and business resources available in Indian Country. Ms. Thompson created the program and served as the programs first manager.

DC NATIVE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION (NABA- DC)

2002-2004

President

Washington, DC

NABA DC is one of the largest chapters of Native American attorneys in the United States. One of the primary missions of Ms. Thompson's presidency was to help direct national, international, and legal resources to Native communities.

NATIVEVOTE 2008 • 2006 • 2004 • *Election Protection/Voting Rights Project*

2004-present

Creator/National Coordinator

Washington, DC

Ms. Thompson created and ran a national non-partisan program designed to address systemic legal issues hindering Native voters, and Native American indigenous voting rights. The program is active in fifteen states with large indigenous populations, within the Reservation and urban Indian communities. We train and deploy nearly 500 legal and grass-roots volunteers to serve as voter advocates on Election Day.

SAMPLE PUBLICATIONS

- “An Inconvenient Truth: The History Behind the Rapid City Indian Boarding School and West Rapid City Lands.”
By Heather Dawn Thompson (May 2017) <https://www.moarapidcity.org/essays-perspectives/>,
<https://www.facebook.com/SiouxSanLands/>
- “Doing Business with Tribal Owned Corporations: Competitive Advantages,” by Heather Dawn Thompson,
Tribal Business Journal, (March 2016)
- “Modern Realities of the ‘Jurisdictional Maze’ in Indian Country,” by Heather Dawn Thompson and Elizabeth Kronk,
The Federal Lawyer, 54 *Federal Lawyer* 48 (March/April 2007)
http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2167430

SAMPLE PUBLIC SPEAKING

- “Surviving an Invasion & Understanding Your Neighbors,” Heather Dawn Thompson, TEDx Talk (July 2018)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZOuZ_f7EN6k
- “Enabling Investments in Indian Country,” Heather Dawn Thompson, SoCap Conference, (October 2018)
<https://youtu.be/UZOOq3QgDkw>
- “An Inconvenient Truth: The History Behind the Rapid City Indian Boarding School and West Rapid City Lands,”
Oyate Today Interview, (January 2019) <https://youtu.be/e3ar7rmBz3E>
- “Hidden America: Children of the Plains,” Narrator, *20/20 ABC Special with Diane Sawyer*, (October 2011),
<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2011/10/diane-sawyer-reporting-a-hidden-america-children-of-the-plains-on-friday-october-14/>

SAMPLE COVERAGE

- “A Man of Healing, A Saga of Suffering: Allegations of Child Sex Abuse are Complicated by Legal Maze in Indian County,” by Sari Horowitz, *The Washington Post* (December 28, 2014)
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/sf/national/2014/12/28/a-man-of-healing-a-saga-of-suffering/>
- “Federal Panel Reviewing Native American Sentencing,” By Dan Frosch, *The Wall Street Journal* (April 21, 2015)
<http://www.wsj.com/articles/federal-panel-reviewing-native-american-sentencing-1429608601>

SAMPLE TEACHING & LECTURES

- Guest lectures include: Harvard Kennedy School of Government, UCLA School of Law, George Washington University, American University, Black Hills State University, University of South Dakota.
- *Federal Indian Law*, Professor, United Tribes Technical College •
 - *Rural Tribal Economic Development*, Presenter, Greenberg Traurig •
 - *Crime Scene Investigations*, Professor, United Tribes Technical College •
 - *Separation of Politics & Economic Development*, Reservation Economic Summit (RES) •
 - *Intensive Tribal Court Trial Advocacy Training*, Instructor, BIA Tribal Courts Program •
 - *Advanced Federal Advocacy Training for Tribal Leaders*, National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) •
 - *Criminal Jurisdiction in Indian Country*, Society of American Indian Government Employees (SAIGE) •
 - *How Governments Can Promote Tribal Economies*, Reservation Economic Summit (RES) •
 - *Ethics for Indian Law Practitioners*, Federal Bar Association •

RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Saudi Arabia • The Philippines • The Netherlands • United Arab Emirates • Ecuador •

BAR MEMBERSHIPS

- Alaska • Colorado • District of Columbia • North Dakota (temporary) • South Dakota • Virginia •
- Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe (SD) • Oglala Sioux Tribe (SD) • Puyallup Tribe of Indians (WA) •

CITIZENSHIPS

- United States • Cheyenne River Sioux (Mnicoujou) •