

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, LAW, AND POWER SYMPOSIUM:

*New Directions Under the  
Biden Administration*



MARCH 5, 2021

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HOSTED BY:

*American Indian Law Review*

9:00 a.m.

**Welcome**

Katheleen Guzman, Interim Dean, OU College of Law

9:05 a.m.

**Theme and Overview of Symposium**

Lindsay Robertson, Chickasaw Nation Endowed Chair in  
Native American Law, OU College of Law

9:15 a.m.

**Ceremonial Prayer**

9:20 to 10:00 a.m.

**Speaker I**

David Mullon

10:00 to 10:40 a.m.

**Speaker II**

Trent Shores

10:40 to 11:20 a.m.

**Speaker III**

Kim Teehee

11:20 to 12:00 p.m.

**Speaker IV**

Kevin Washburn

12:00 p.m.

**Closing Remarks**

## David Mullon

*Legislative and Government Affairs Attorney, Venable LLP*

*Former Chief Counsel, United States Senate Committee on Indian Affairs*

*Former Chief Counsel, National Congress of American Indians*



David Mullon is a legislative and government affairs attorney and citizen of the Cherokee Nation who has dedicated his career to addressing issues that impact Native American tribes throughout the country. Mullon has significant government and private practice experience, working on issues related to energy, water, land use, natural resources, environmental law, healthcare law and legislative affairs. He has provided various legal services to the Cherokee and Muscogee (Creek) Nations, and subsequently worked with the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, playing a key role in the passage of legislation that affects Native American tribes.

Before joining Venable, Mullon served as chief counsel to the National Congress of American Indians, a nonprofit organization that represents the interests of Native American and Alaska Native tribal governments and communities.

Prior to that, he was a strong advocate for tribes through his positions with the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, including as minority staff director and as chief counsel. Mullon worked for and advised five separate committee chairs and vice chairs, and played key roles in drafting several bills, including the American Indian Probate Reform Act of 2004, Title V (Indian Energy) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, portions of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act reauthorization, and Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010, several water settlement bills and numerous other bills relating to federal Indian policy.

Mullon served as the Cherokee Nation's first in-house attorney and later as counsel. He represented the Nation in federal, state and tribal courts, provided legal advice and counsel to the principal chief, developed tribal legislation for the Nation's extensive Indian housing program and drafted lengthy amendments to its membership and environmental codes. He also negotiated tribal-state compacts and cooperative agreements with the State of Oklahoma, for automobile licensing and registration and communicated the Nation's legislative initiatives in Washington, DC.

For the Creek Nation, Mullon served as attorney general, chief law enforcement officer, civil attorney and legal advisor to the principal chief and National Council. He represented the Nation in all criminal and juvenile proceedings in tribal court, and all civil proceedings in tribal, state and federal courts, including employment disputes, contracts, and compacts, and represented the Nation before various federal agencies.

## Trent Shores

*Former United States Attorney for the Northern District of Oklahoma, 2017-2021*



The Honorable Trent Shores served as United States Attorney for the Northern District of Oklahoma from 2017-2021. As the United States Attorney, Shores was the chief federal law enforcement officer responsible for all federal criminal prosecutions and civil litigation involving the United States in the Northern District of Oklahoma, an area covering 11 counties and including 13 federally recognized Indian tribes. He led a staff of more than 55 attorneys and support personnel to accomplish this mission.

On November 13, 2017, Attorney General Jeff Sessions appointed Shores to the Attorney General's Advisory Committee, a select group of United States Attorneys who provide advice and counsel directly to the Attorney General on matters of policy, procedure and management. Shores was also appointed as chair of the Native American Issues Subcommittee, a group of United States Attorneys charged with the developing and guiding national policy for Indian Country justice. Shores also serves on the Tribal Issues Advisory Group, an ad hoc advisory group to the United States Sentencing Commission, as well as a member of the Attorney General's Management, People and Performance Subcommittee and the Victim and Community Issues Working Group. In March 2019, he was selected as co-chair of the Presidential Task Force on Protecting Native American Children in the Indian Health Services System.

His leadership and vision have earned Shores recognition from the *Tulsa World* as one of 2018's People to Watch and by the *Tulsa Business and Legal News* as the 2015 Man of Distinction.

Prior to his appointment as United States Attorney, Shores served as an assistant United States attorney in the Northern District of Oklahoma from 2007 through 2017. He prosecuted human trafficking and child exploitation crimes, international organized crime and public corruption. He also served as the national security cyber specialist and worked closely with the Joint Terrorism Task Force to investigate and prosecute cybercrimes and domestic terrorism.

In 2015, Shores served as Oklahoma first assistant attorney general. As a top advisor to Oklahoma's Attorney General, Shores championed public safety measures to reduce violent crime, fought public corruption and protected the interests of the State of Oklahoma and its citizens.

Previously, Shores served as the deputy director of the Department of Justice's Office of Tribal Justice in Washington, D.C., where he addressed a diverse array of criminal and civil legal issues facing Native Americans and Alaska Natives. He represented the United States at the United Nations and Organization of American States, where he negotiated declarations pertaining to the rights of indigenous peoples and advocated for the recognition of basic human rights for indigenous people worldwide. Before joining the Department of Justice, Shores served in the administration of Oklahoma Governor Frank Keating.

Shores graduated with a degree in political science from Vanderbilt University and received his J.D. from the University of Oklahoma. He is a graduate of Leadership Tulsa Class '56. Shores is a citizen of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and resides in Tulsa, Oklahoma, with his wife, Caitlin.

## Kimberly Teehee

*Director of Government Relations, Cherokee Nation*

*Senior Vice President of Government Relations Cherokee Nation Businesses*

*Cherokee Nation Delegate to United States House of Representatives*

*Former Senior Policy Advisor for Native American Affairs, White House Domestic Policy Council*



Kim Teehee is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation. She is director of government relations for Cherokee Nation and senior vice president of government relations for Cherokee Nation Businesses.

In 2019, Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. named her the tribe's first delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives, as guaranteed in Cherokee Nation's 1835 treaty, the Treaty of New Echota, and as outlined in the Cherokee Nation Constitution. She was also named a visiting Sequoyah Fellow at her alma mater, Northeastern State University.

Prior to returning home to the Cherokee Nation, she served as partner for Mapetsi Policy Group, a Washington, D.C.-based federal advocacy group representing Indian tribes and tribal organizations.

She previously served President Barack Obama as the first-ever senior policy advisor for Native American Affairs in the White House Domestic Policy Council for three years. Teehee worked with federal agencies to develop and implement policies focused on environmental justice, tribal consultation, tribal self-determination, economic growth, public safety, health care and education and to resolve longstanding disputes. Teehee's work helped lead to a Presidential Memorandum on tribal consultation and an Executive Order on Improving American Indian and Alaska Native Educational Opportunities and Strengthening Tribal Colleges and Universities. Teehee guided the administration's support for the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and addressed the U.N. Permanent Forum on issues affecting the world's indigenous peoples. She is especially proud of her work toward the administration's support of proposed legislation to hold all perpetrators of domestic violence accountable for their crimes against Native American women, closing a jurisdictional gap in Indian country. Teehee played a key role in three White House Tribal Nations Conferences and led a government-wide team to ensure that progress was being made on tribal policy and legislative priorities.

Teehee also served as senior advisor to the U.S. House of Representatives Native American Caucus Co-Chair, Rep. Dale Kildee (D-MI). Serving the bi-partisan caucus for nearly 12 years, she established an impressive record of accomplishments on a wide array of Native American issues.

She grew up in Claremore, Oklahoma and held various positions at Cherokee Nation prior to working in Washington, D.C. Teehee received her B.A. in Political Science from NSU and her J.D. from the University of Iowa, College of Law.

## **Kevin Washburn**

*Dean, University of Iowa College of Law*

*Former Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, United States Department of the Interior, 2012-2016*



Kevin Washburn is the Dean of the University of Iowa College of Law. A citizen of the Chickasaw Nation, he grew up in Oklahoma and graduated from the University of Oklahoma and followed by Yale Law School. Outside of academia, he has been a federal prosecutor, a DOJ trial attorney and general counsel of the National Indian Gaming Commission. Washburn also served as the assistant secretary for Indian Affairs at the Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C. during the second term of the Obama Administration. As an academic, he

has taught Indian Law and other subjects at several law and has served as the dean of the University of New Mexico Law School. He recently took time off from his deanship at Iowa to serve on the Biden Harris Transition Team.

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