



Federal Bar Association Indian Law Section

The Indian Law Section is pleased to announce that the 2024 Lawrence R. Baca Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient is **Lloyd Miller**.



Lloyd Miller is a partner with Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Miller & Monkman LLP, and has devoted his 45-year career exclusively to advocating for American Indian and Alaska Native rights.

Lloyd is best known for his long-fought victories in two Supreme Court cases, *Cherokee Nation v. Leavitt* [2005] and *Salazar v. Ramah Navajo Chapter* [2012]. These two victories and follow on litigations resulted in Tribes recovering an estimated \$2 billion in damages against the United States, and also led to the creation of two indefinite appropriations accounts permitting the Indian Health Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs to fund in full tribal contracts and

compacts awarded under the Indian Self-Determination Act. These and related litigations (including the San Carlos case currently pending before the Supreme Court) built on extensive congressional work that Lloyd did in pressing for the enactment of amendments to the Indian Self-Determination Act in the 1980s and 1990s, as well as a series of later congressional oversight hearings examining agency practices under that Act.

Lloyd is also known for his court-appointed work as Plaintiffs' Liaison Counsel and Tribal Class Co-Counsel in the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Litigation, which resulted in the first-ever recoveries for damages to subsistence hunting and fishing rights. He has also played a central role on the Tribal Liaison Committee in recovering over \$1.6 billion for Tribes in the sprawling National Prescription Opiate Litigation MDL litigation and serves as the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee Tribal Representative in the related McKinsey MDL litigation.

Lloyd's litigation and congressional work has intersected nearly every field of Indian law including the Indian Child Welfare Act, the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, the Indian Claims Commission Act, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, health law, hunting and fishing rights, labor law, tribal recognition, trust law, land acquisitions, treaty rights and land claims. He was also a key architect of the 2017 Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Consolidation Act, and of section 813 of the Violence Against Women Act (recognizing tribal jurisdiction throughout Alaska Native villages).

Beyond his numerous professional contributions to Indian country, perhaps Lloyd's most lasting legacy is his commitment to hiring, training, and mentoring Native American attorneys. Over his 45-year career, numerous young attorneys have worked with Lloyd to gain skills and experience in representing tribal clients and have moved on to influential leadership positions and successful careers. It is no overstatement that nearly every attorney to practice Indian law in Alaska and many in the lower 48 have been influenced by Lloyd's expertise in the field.

Lloyd graduated with honors from the University of Virginia School of Law and received his B.A. from Yale University in Philosophy, Psychology and Religious Studies.

In his younger years Lloyd was an avid mountaineer and in 1994 reached 27,000 feet on the north side of Mt. Everest. He is married to Heather Kendall Miller (Dena'ina Athabascan), and they have two daughters (Ruth & Asha) and a granddaughter (Shoshone).



FBA Indian Law Section Chair Helen B. Padilla remarked, “Mr. Miller’s diligent work on behalf of Tribes has made a long-lasting impact throughout Indian Country in countless ways. His dedication to American Indian and Alaska Native rights that includes bringing young Native attorneys into the practice of law is an essential part of his legacy that we honor with this award.”
