

# Joe M. Tenorio

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## » Experience

### **Native American Rights Fund, Boulder, CO**

***Staff Attorney, August 2017 – Present***

- Practice primarily focuses on tribal water rights.

### **Chestnut Law Offices, Albuquerque, NM**

***Attorney, February 2002 – June 2017***

- Represented clients in purchase and acquisition of real property and businesses
- Represented clients in state, tribal, federal court, and administrative agencies concerning contract disputes, employment disputes, gaming compact disputes, business valuation, trespass and ejection actions, tribal sovereignty issues, and protection of tribal sovereign immunity.
- Represented clients in development of new tribally owned entities (Section 17 Corporation, LLC, non-profit 501(c)(3)).
- Drafted tribal laws, including tax codes, tribal employment rights ordinances, gaming ordinances, liquor ordinances, and implementing corresponding policies, procedures and regulations.
- Drafted contracts, leases, agreements, and understandings with eye towards protecting, supporting, and strengthening tribal sovereignty, laws, and jurisdiction.
- Worked with tribal, state, and federal governments in securing approvals of laws, contracts, leases, right-of-ways, and governance documents.

### **Gila River Indian Community**

***Legal Intern, Summer 2000***

- Drafted service agreements and construction contracts on behalf of the Gila River Indian Community.

### **U.S. Department of Interior, Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs, Washington, DC**

***Staff Intern, Summer 1999***

- Contributed to the survey and report on the Indian Tribal Tort Claims Act of 1998.
- Drafted an apology for the President of the United States regarding the status and conditions of off-reservation Indian boarding schools.

### **New Mexico Office of Indian Affairs, Santa Fe, NM**

***Policy Analyst, Summer 1998***

- Analyzed legislative policies to assist NM Tribes in strengthening their tribal infrastructure.
- Co-authored a document on Native American sovereignty and self-determination.

## » Litigation Experience

- *Isleta v. Martinez, et. al.*, 1:17-cv-00654-KG-KK (requesting declaratory and injunctive relief against certain officers of the State of New Mexico from collecting Class III gaming revenue-share payments on free-play issued to casino patrons)
- *Sanchez v. San Felipe Pueblo Casino Hollywood*, D-820-CV-2017-00152 (defending a gaming enterprise against a personal injury action for an alleged slip and fall that occurred off gaming premises)
- *Pueblo of Acoma v. Demesia Padilla et. al.*, Case 1:16cv-01132 (requested declaratory and injunctive relief against the State and Cibola county from exercising jurisdiction over Acoma's lands, including valuation, assessment, taxation or sale)
- *Wylie and Tenorio v. Pueblo of San Felipe and San Felipe Gaming Enterprise*, No. CV16-0025 (defended a gaming enterprise against a wrongful termination and Indian Civil Rights Act violation claim)
- *Tafoya v. Santa Clara Pueblo Gaming Commission*, Tribal Court No. GC-16-001 (successfully upheld a Gaming Commission decision to impose penalties on a key employee)
- *Delage Landen Financial Services, Inc. v. Santa Clara Pueblo Gaming Commission, aka Pueblo of Santa Clara*, Civil Action No. 2016-08683-CT (defended a breach of contract claim against a gaming commission and its executive director)
- *Los Alamos Self Storage v. Acting Southwest Regional Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs*, Docket No /BIA 12045 (tribal termination of a ground lease with a non-Indian entity upheld by the Interior Board of Indian Appeals)
- *Corabi v. ENIPC, Inc.*, No. 14-CV-01081-MV-LAM (successfully defended ENIPC, a tribal consortium, from a breach of contract and wrongful termination claim)
- *The Estate of Kathleen Williams et. al. v. Fanning, Bart, Tatum Architects, AJA, Ltd., et al.*, Cause No. D-202-CV-2014-05391 (defended Sky City Communications from a wrongful death action which resulted in a settlement agreement)
- *Mitchell v. Pueblo of Acoma*, Cause No. D-1333-CV-2013-00011 (defended ABE from a personal injury action filed under the 2001 Gaming Compact for a cause of action that arose in the hotel premises concluding with a settlement agreement)
- *Bertelle v. Sky City Casino*, Cause No. D-1333-CV-2013-00014 (successfully defended Sky City Casino in a personal injury action that arose within the Gaming Facility)
- *Atkins v. San Felipe Casino Hollywood*, Cause No. 13CV1360 (successfully defended the San Felipe Casino Hollywood in a personal injury action filed in the State of Colorado for a slip and fall that arose in the Casino's parking lot)
- *Talache v. Pueblo of Nambe*, Cause No. CV-2013-009 (successfully defended the Pueblo of Nambe in a general election challenge)
- *Chino v. Pueblo of Acoma et al.*, Cause No. 12CV0007 (successfully defended the Pueblo of Acoma and tribal officers against claims for breach of personnel policies, violation of the Indian Civil Rights Act, defamation, wrongful discharge, and infliction of emotional distress)
- *Romero v. Pueblo of Nambe*, 1 :09-CV-00232-RB-DJS (successfully defended the Pueblo of Nambe in a habeas corpus petition challenging the lawfulness of the Pueblo's sentencing and conviction of crimes committed by a tribal member on tribal land. The Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in our favor and the US Supreme Court denied review which permitted the Tenth Circuit's decision to stand)
- *Continental Divide Electric Cooperative, Inc. v. Pueblo of Acoma*, 11 CVI 104 (successfully defended the Pueblo of Acoma's regulation of non-member's use of land use on Pueblo Lands)

## » Litigation Experience (cont.)

- *Dream Catcher Consulting Corporation v. Pueblo Gas*, Chartered, et. al., 101CV2010 00807 (successfully defended a tribally-owned corporation in a suit filed in state district court alleging breach of contract claims)
- *Kewa Gas, Limited v. Elizabeth Lovato*, 01329-CV-2010-0226 (successfully obtained a judgment in state district court against an employee for unlawful conversion of tribal business funds and unjust enrichment)
- *Sky City Cultural Center v. Kevin Horace Quannie*, 01333 CV20090160 (successfully obtained a judgment in state district court against a contractor for unlawful conversion of tribal business funds and unjust enrichment, and proceeded with collection efforts)
- *Famiglietta v. Acoma Business Enterprises*, 01329 CV07201 (successfully defended ABE in a suit filed in state district court alleging breach of employment contract claim)
- *Kosiba v. Pueblo of San Juan, San Juan Gaming Commission*, 139 N.M. 533 (Ct. App. NM 2006) (successfully defended a tribal regulatory agency in state district court and court of appeals concerning waiver of tribal sovereign immunity under the 2001 tribal-state gaming compact)

## » Continuing Legal Education and Other Presentations

- **"Overview of Native American Land and Water."** Sponsored by Leadership New Mexico. May, 2015.
- **"Pueblo Law."** Sponsored by Friends of the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center. March, 2013.
- **"Rights of Way and Lease Agreements: Negotiation Considerations for Tribal Governments."** Sponsored by the American Indian Law Center. March, 2010.
- **"The Dichotomy of Tribal Taxing Authority."** Sponsored by the American Indian Law Center. March, 2010.
- **"Recent Case Law Interpreting the Limited Waiver of Tribal Sovereign Immunity Provision under Tribal-State Compacts."** Sponsored by the State Bar of New Mexico Continuing Legal Education. November, 2006.

## » Education

**Anderson Graduate School of Management, University of New Mexico**  
*Master of Business Administration, 2007*

**Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, Arizona State University**  
*Juris Doctor, 2001*

**Princeton University**  
*Bachelor of Arts, 1998*

## » Admissions and Affiliations

Licensed to practice in New Mexico (2001); Pueblos of Acoma, Nambe, San Felipe, Santa Clara, and Ohkay Owingeh; U.S. District, New Mexico (2005); Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals (2011)

Enrolled Member, Santo Domingo Pueblo; Pueblo of Santo Domingo Investment Committee Member, 2009-Present; Past Board Member, Kewa Gas, Limited