**SPEAKER BIOS**

**Tribal Consultation on Violence Against Women Act (VAWA 2013, Section 903)**

**Kelbie Kennedy, Esq.** (Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma): Kelbie Kennedy received her J.D. and certificate in American Indian Law from the University of Oklahoma, College of Law. Kelbie has focused her career on field of Indian Law and has worked for Tribal Nations, private firms, and the federal government. Before coming to NCAI she served as the Assistant Attorney General for the Chuuk State Government in the Federated States of Micronesia. Kelbie now works in Washington, D.C. as a Policy Counsel for the National Congress of American Indians and focuses on policy issues surrounding tribal homeland security, tribal emergency management, violence against American Indian and Alaska Native women, public safety and justice, tribal juvenile justice, and Indian child and family welfare.

**Juana Majel-Dixon** (Pauma Band of Mission Indians)**:** Juana Majel-Dixon has served as the Traditional Legislative Councilwoman for the Pauma Band of Mission Indians since 1970. In this capacity, she has been involved in several Native American issues, which includes but are not limited to the following: Public Law 280, Self Determination (63E), Indian Education Act, Native American Religious Freedom Act, Native American Graves Protection Regulatory Act, the Indian Child Welfare Act, Violence Against Women Act and Tribal Law and Order Act.

Ms. Majel-Dixon has been employed as a professor at Palomar College since 1981, where she provides instruction to college-aged students in areas of Federal Indian Law and U.S. Law, American Indian Philosophy and Religion, and Introduction of American Indian Culture prior to contact and California Indian. She previously taught at San Diego State University and Mesa College. She also serves as the Natural Resource Director at Pauma Band of Mission Indians where she is responsible for the environmental operations of the Tribe, which includes the land, watershed and air shed. She also serves as the Policy Director at the Pauma Band of Mission Indians since where she is responsible for the overall tribal policy development and tribal response to Congress and the Federal operations, including governmental response to criminal and civil issues.

Ms. Majel-Dixon has served on the trust reform task force during both Clinton and Bush's administrations. She has served as Co-Chair with Chief Tillman to the first Trust Reform group with Kevin Gover, NCAI Chair for Violence Against Women Act, Chair of the Cultural and Religious Concerns Committee, NCAI Liaison for Medicare/Medicaid Case Management and the Tribal Technical Team, NCAI Liaison for Alcohol Substance Abuse Summit, Co-Chair of the task force to Stop Violence Against Native Women, CA Rep to SAMSHA, and Co-chair to the Tribal Justice Advisory Group.

Ms. Majel-Dixon has a Joint Doctorate in U.S. Policy and Education at Clairmont Graduate School and San Diego State University, a Master of Science in Counseling, a Master of Arts in Community Block Development and a Bachelor of Science in Human Behavior.

**Shannon Holsey** (Stockbridge-Munsee band of Mohican Indians)**:** Shannon Holsey serves as president of the Stockbridge-Munsee band of Mohican Indians. Holsey has served three terms as President, following eight years as a member of the Tribal Council. Holsey grew up on the Stockbridge-Munsee reservation in Bowler, Wisconsin, and has committed the Tribe to serving as good stewards of its economic, environmental and culture as well as intellectual resources.

Holsey also serves as president of the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, which represents eleven-member tribes with a land base of about 1 million acres spanning 45 counties. She is appointed as the Wisconsin State Legislature’s Special Committee on State-Tribal Relations. NCAI Treasurer, NCAI area vice president, MAST Secretary, INMED Advisory Council, CMA Tribal Technical Advisory Group, NCAI Sub Committee member of land management, Co-chair of NCAI Violence Against Women’s Act Task force, Wisconsin’s MMIW Task Force, Governor Appointed Student Debt Relief Task Force National Council on Aging committee member, Region 5 EPA RTOC member.

Holsey’s personal philosophy on leadership recognizes that Native Americans are growing economies, preparing students to succeed, delivering high-quality health care, protecting the environment, upholding tribal sovereignty, and solving the unique challenges facing our tribal communities. Holsey received her bachelor’s degree in business administration magna cum laude and master’s degrees in strategic leadership and communication from Seton Hall University with distinction.

**Michelle Demmert** (Tlingit, Eagle), Ḵaax̱ʼoos.hittaan (Man’s Foot) clan is the Law and Policy Director at the Alaska Native Women’s Resource Center. In the recent past, she was the appointed Chief Judge for the Tulalip Tribes and the elected Chief Justice for the Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska. While the Chief Justice for her tribe, she served as the co-chair of the National Congress of American Indians’ Violence Against Women Task Force. Judge Demmert has devoted her legal career to advancing improvements and practices in tribal courts and has also worked in various capacities of advancing domestic violence protections for women and children. She has testified to Congress regarding legislation and current issues affecting women and children. She is the past Chief Judge at the Chehalis tribe and was their Presiding Judge for over 12 years while working at the Northwest Intertribal Court System. Judge Demmert worked for nearly 10 years in the Reservation Attorney’s office for the Tulalip Tribes. In that position, she served as the Tulalip Tribes’ primary point of contact for the special domestic violence jurisdiction intertribal working group on domestic violence and has presented about this process at many tribal, state, federal and university forums, including a presentation to the Department of Justice staff during Domestic Violence Awareness month in October 2015. Judge Demmert is a graduate of the University of Washington for both her Juris Doctorate and her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. She actively engaged in the Alaska commercial fishing industry prior to her practice of law.

**Kerri Colfer** (Tlingit):Kerri is Senior Native Affairs Advisor for the National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center. In her role, Kerri assists to develop and manage NIWRC’s policy agenda and provide expert analysis and leadership in enhancing the sovereign authority of Tribal Nations to protect Native people.

Prior to coming to NIWRC, Kerri was the Congressional Advocate on Native American Policy at the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) in Washington, D.C. While at FCNL, Kerri worked with Native and non-Native partners and members of congress to advance Native policy, with a focus on addressing violence against Native women.

Kerri earned a B.A. in English Literature from Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island and a J.D. from the Temple University Beasley School of Law in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.