

3rd Annual All Roads Lead to Chaco Canyon:

Building the Foundation for International Trade Among Native Nations

TENTATIVE AGENDA

Day 1: Wednesday, March 11, 2020

Location: Couchatta Casino Resort

Time	Topic
5:00-5:30	<i>Opening Remarks and Prayer</i>
6:00-8:00	<i>Federal Indian Law Crash Course Dinner</i> <i>CLE Credits: TBA</i>

Description: Adam Crepelle, Professor of Law, and Joseph Austin, Attorney at Law, will provide a basic overview of federal Indian law—its origin and history. The purpose of this crash course is to answer basic questions such as: what are Native Nations? What is the extent of tribal sovereignty? What is Indian Country? Who is an Indian? Austin and Crepelle also highlight cases and legislation that have created the mess that we know today in Indian Country. They illustrate the reasons why there is so much unemployment, why there is minimal economic development, and why outside entrepreneurs and investors shy away from doing business on reservations.

Biographies of the Conference Founders and Organizers:

Joseph Austin (*CEO of Olea, Solórzano & Austin and Attorney at Law*)—Mr. Austin is a member of the Navajo Nation. He has a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in business administration and management from the University of Arizona, Eller College of Management. He received a law degree (J.D.) along with a certificate in Indigenous Peoples Law & Policy from the University of Arizona, James E. Rogers College of Law and a Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree in International Economic Law & Policy from the same institution. Mr. Austin is licensed to practice in state and tribal court; his areas of practice are in federal Indian law and tribal law. He specializes in nation building, customary law, business, economic development, and international trade. Currently, Mr. Austin is pursuing his doctoral degree(S.J.D.) in the field of law and continuing the work he did in the Master of Laws program—the engagement of international trade among Native Nations. His passion for helping Native Nations achieve self-determination and uprooting the systematic abuses perpetuated by federal Indian law has earned him the moniker, the “Wolf of Indian Country.”

Adam Crepelle (*Professor of Law at Southern University Law Center and Justice of the Pascua Yaqui Court of Appeals*)—Mr. Crepelle is an enrolled citizen of the United Houma Nation and has served on the tribe’s election committee, diabetes coalition, and tribal security and community services committee. He is a former vice president of the California Indian Law Association and is a co-founder of the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Louisiana. He has authored several articles on topics including tribal federal recognition, violence against American Indian women, and American Indian economic development. Adam is also an award winning film producer. His film, Indian Santa, screened at numerous venues including the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of the American Indian. He is currently a professor of law at Southern University Law Center and also serves as a justice for the Pascua Yaqui Court of Appeals.

Location: Coshatta Casino Resort

Time	Topic	Speaker
8:00-9:00	<i>Breakfast, Opening Remarks, and Prayer</i>	Chairman Sickey
9:00-9:55	<i>The Importance of Tribal Courts in Economic Development</i> Description: Dr. Raymond Austin, Justice Emeritus of the Navajo Nation Supreme Court, will use his experience working in Indian Country to discuss what Native Nations should be considering in building/rebuilding their nations politically, judicially, and economically.	Dr. Raymond Austin
10:00-10:55	<i>Creating Private Sector Economies in Native America</i> Description: Professor Robert J. Miller will talk about his new book, "Creating Private Sector Economies in Native America," which suggests ways that Native Nations can create and stimulate the private sector on reservations, specifically through the adoption laws and policies.	Professor Robert Miller
11:00-12:00	<i>Judges Panel: Law and Economic Development in Indian Country</i> Panelists: Raymond Austin, Robert Miller, Adam Crepelle Focus: This panel of judges will discuss how vital it is to have a strong rule of law in the pursuit of economic development.	Mod: TBA
12:00-1:15	<i>Lunch</i>	
1:15-2:30	<i>Stories from the Rez: This is Why We Can't Have Nice Things</i> Focus: Joseph Austin uses his experience as an attorney working in Native Nations to highlight what typically impedes economic development and ways to fix it.	Joseph Austin, Esq.
2:35-3:30	<i>Panel Discussion: Navigating the Legal Infrastructure</i> Panelists: Chase Velasquez (TBD), Edith Baker, Peter Ortego Description: Panelists will examine the legal obstacles, created by federal Indian law and congressional laws, that entrepreneurs face in setting up businesses and ways to get around them.	Mod: Adam Crepelle
3:35-5:00	<i>Panel Discussion: Doing Business in Indian Country</i> Panelists: Chad Johnson, Bailey Walker, Donna Feir Focus: Panelists will use their knowledge and experience to discuss things to keep in mind when doing business on reservations and with Native Nations	Mod: Annetta Abbott

Day 3: Friday, March 13, 2020

Location: Coshatta Casino Resort

Time	Topic	Speaker
8:30-9:30	<i>Breakfast</i>	
9:30-10:25	<i>Tribal-State Economic Development Partnerships</i> Description: Dean Stacy Leeds will discuss how states and tribes can collaborate to form mutually beneficial partnerships.	Dean Stacy Leeds
10:30-12:00	<i>Native Leaders Panel: Law, Leadership, and Economic Development</i> Panelists: Chairman David Sickey, Billy Cyprus TBA, TBA Description: Native leaders will talk about how leadership plays a vital role in economic development and moving a Nation forward.	Mod: Ernest Sickey
12:00-1:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
1:00-1:55	<i>How Bureaucracy Kills Tribal Economic Development</i> Description: Dr. Terry Anderson will unravel the federal and tribal bureaucracy to help folks understand what slows down economic development and figure out ways to streamline it.	Dr. Terry Anderson
2:00-3:30	<i>Panel Discussion: Inter-tribal Trade and International Trade</i> Panelists: Joseph Austin, Adam Crepelle, Zeheffa Focus: Panelists will talk about international trade, trade principles and theories, and how Native Nations can become participants in the global economy	
3:30	<i>Closing Remarks and Prayer</i>	Coshatta Elder
6:00	<i>Conference Reception at the Coshatta Casino Resort</i>	

CONFERENCE MATERIALS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE CONFERENCE WEBSITE: <https://www.team-osa.com/all-roads-lead-to-chaco-canyon>

Conference Organizers & Partners:

The 3rd Annual All Roads Lead to Chaco Canyon Conference is being organized by ACES (Austin, Crepelle & Ernest Sickey's School for Domestic Dependent Nations, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded by Joseph Austin, Adam Crepelle, and Ernest Sickey). The All Roads Lead to Chaco Canyon Conference originated from the minds of Joseph Austin and Adam Crepelle back in 2017, and since then, it has gained widespread recognition. The 3rd Annual Conference is being hosted and sponsored by the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana. Because of the conference's unique subject matter and innovative topics, it has been endorsed, supported, and sponsored in the past by entities such as the World Trade Center of New Orleans, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, Oklahoma Indian Chamber of Commerce, the University of Arizona, the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, the Hoover Institute at Stanford University, and Southern University Law Center.

Description of the Conference:

Since the creation of the United States, the federal government has maintained control over Native trade, land, resources, and businesses. Consequently, many Native Nations have high poverty rates, high unemployment rates, stagnant economic development, and little to no private investment. A lot of conferences focus on how to protect Native Nations, recycling the same conversation and topics that have been heard for decades. This conference shifts the conversation from protection of Native people to empowerment by teaching Native Nations how they can use their sovereignty to create business opportunities, establish business friendly environments, and become participants in the global economy. Welcome to ACES (Austin, Crepelle & Ernest Sickey's School for Domestic Dependent Nations), the institution behind All Roads Lead to Chaco Canyon.

The 3rd Annual "All Roads Lead to Chaco Canyon" Conference focuses on the building blocks of Native economies, specifically what Native Nations should be doing to set themselves up for becoming participants in the global economy and international trade. The building blocks are: implementing business/corporation codes; making it easier for entrepreneurs to set up businesses; creating a private sector economy; having a strong rule of law; having a strong, independent court system to enforce laws and contracts so that outside investors are more likely to invest on reservations; and negotiating business deals.

This conference takes a practical approach by teaching participants the legal framework of Native Nations thus removing the mystery surrounding Indian Country. It teaches people the intricacies of doing business on reservations, and suggests strategies that Native leaders can use to make their nations more attractive for private businesses. Lastly, it brings forth a new method of economic development: international trade. Join the discussion on March 11-13, 2020 at the Coushatta Casino Resort, located on Coushatta land in Kinder, Louisiana, to see how even in this modern economic era, *All Roads Still Lead to Chaco Canyon*.

The following topics are on the agenda:

- Nation Building
- Creating Private Sector Economies on Reservations
- Removing Barriers to Entrepreneurship in Indian Country
- Inter-Tribal Trade
- Business Transactions and Enforcing Contracts in Indian Country
- Native Nations Engaging in International Trade

Speakers & Panelists:

- Raymond D. Austin (Justice Emeritus of the Navajo Nation Supreme Court)
- Robert Miller (Professor at ASU College of Law & Chief Justice of Grand Ronde Tribe)
- Adam Crepelle (Professor of Law SULC & Justice of the Pascua Yaqui Court of Appeals)
- Joseph Austin (Attorney & CEO of OSA)
- Terry Anderson (Senior Fellow, Hoover Institution at Stanford University)
- Stacy Leeds (Dean Emeritus of the University of Arkansas School of Law)

- Bailey Walker (President of the Oklahoma Indian Chamber of Commerce)
- Patrice Kunesch (Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis)
- Chad Johnson (Managing Director of the Akana Group)

Speaker Biographies:

Dr. Raymond D. Austin, Navajo (*Justice Emeritus of the Navajo Nation Supreme Court & Professor at NAU*)—Dr. Austin, author of *Navajo Courts and Navajo Common Law*, served 16 years on the Navajo Nation Supreme Court. During his time on the bench, Dr. Austin and his colleagues formalized the use of Navajo common law in judicial decision making and established the peacemaking program—the Navajo method of dispute resolution. Their efforts resulted in the Navajo Nation becoming world renowned among indigenous peoples and nations around the world. Over the years, Dr. Austin has taught at law schools such as Stanford, Harvard, Arizona State University, and even law schools around the world. He continues his work with indigenous peoples, teaching law, governance, and nation building. Currently, he is a professor of applied indigenous studies at Northern Arizona University where he works closely with Native leaders and Native students.

Robert Miller, Eastern Shawnee (*Professor at ASU College of Law & Chief Justice of Grand Ronde Tribe*)—Professor Miller is one of the most renowned law professors in the United States in the areas of federal Indian law, international law, economic development in Indian Country, and Native American natural resources. Currently, he teaches at the Arizona State University, Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law. He has published numerous articles and books on economic development in Indian Country. He is the Chief Justice of the Court of Appeals for the Grand Ronde Tribe and sits as a judge for other tribes. He is also the faculty director of the Rosette LLP American Indian Economic Development Program at ASU.

Dr. Terry L. Anderson (*Senior Fellow, Hoover Institution at Stanford University*)—Dr. Terry Anderson is currently the John and Jean De Nault Senior Fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution. He is the past president of the Property and Environment Research Center in Bozeman, MT, and a Professor Emeritus at Montana State University where he won many teaching awards during his 25 year career. Dr. Anderson is one of the founders of "free market environmentalism," the idea of using markets and property rights to solve environmental problems. In 2015, he published the third edition of his co-authored book by that title. He is also the author or editor of 39 books, including most recently, *Unlocking the Wealth of Indian Nations*, which explores the institutional underpinnings of American Indian reservation economies. Dr. Anderson received his B.S. degree from the University of Montana in 1968 and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in economics from the University of Washington in 1972. He resides in Montana with his wife where he is an avid outdoorsman.

Bailey Walker, Chickasaw (*President of the Oklahoma Indian Chamber of Commerce*)—Mr. Walker earned an entrepreneurship degree from East Central University in 2012 and is an AASBC Accredited/Certified Master Business Consultant. Currently, he serves as the President for the Oklahoma Indian Chamber of Commerce and the Director of Tribal Relations for Tribal Diagnostics, LLC. In previous years, he worked as the coordinator for the Chickasaw Nation Preferred Vendor Program Coordinator and held various positions within the Indian Chamber of Commerce including Advisory Board Member, State Board Member, and Vice President. Mr. Walker's advocacy for minority owned businesses increased networking opportunities in the Indian Chamber of Commerce. He assisted in the creation of the SW Chapter, SE Chapter, & Poteau Chapter. In 2016, Mr. Walker helped build a program called Leadership Native Oklahoma, which empowers Native business leaders. Mr. Walker was raised traditionally with Chickasaw customs from an encouraging mother and grandparents.

Patrice Kunesch, Standing Rock Lakota (*Co-Director, Center for Indian Country Development at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis*)—Patrice Kunesch served as a deputy under the Secretary of Rural Development for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. As a deputy, she oversaw Operations & Management and the Office of Civil Rights and worked with the USDA's state directors. Kunesch also served as the deputy solicitor for Indian affairs in the U.S. Department of the Interior. Before that, she was a faculty member at the University of South Dakota School of Law and the director of the university's Institute of American Indian Studies. She began her legal career at the Native American Rights Fund where she litigated cases involving tribal sovereignty and natural resources. In 1995, she was in-house counsel to the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe of Connecticut. Kunesch received a Master of Public Administration from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and a law degree from the University of Colorado School of Law.

Stacy L. Leeds, Cherokee (*Vice Chancellor for Economic Development, Dean Emeritus, and Professor of Law at the University*

of Arkansas)—As Vice Chancellor, Stacy Leeds provides leadership for campus-wide engagement, collaboration, and outreach to citizens, businesses, governmental and nonprofit entities in Arkansas and beyond. She works closely with UA's ten colleges, schools and divisions to amplify the university's economic and social impact. From 2011-2018, Leeds served as the twelfth dean of the University of Arkansas School of Law and is the only Native woman to have served as a law school dean in the United States. Currently, she teaches Indian law and a legal clinic. She is a recipient of the American Bar Association's Spirit of Excellence Award, an elected member of the American Law Institute, and a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation. She is a former Alphonse Fletcher, Sr. Fellow affiliated with the W.E.B. DuBois Institute at Harvard University and a former Sequoyah Fellow at Northeastern State University. She has served as justice for the Cherokee Nation Supreme Court and held many judge positions, both trial and appellate.

Schedule Overview:

Wednesday, March 11—join us for dinner at the Coshatta Casino Resort, 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm, as Adam Creppelle and Joseph Austin provide interested conference participants with a crash course on federal Indian law

Thursday, March 12—join us at the Coshatta Casino Resort, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, as indigenous leaders, lawyers, judges, and legal experts talk about the legal infrastructure surrounding Indian Country, how it has negatively impacted Native Nations, and ways to get around the impediments in order to effectively do business on reservations (breakfast and lunch provided)

Friday, March 13—join us at Coshatta Casino Resort, 8:00 am – 3:30 pm; Native leaders, speakers, and panelists will discuss how to create trade partnerships with states, how to become participants in the global economy, and the principles and theories underlying international trade (breakfast and lunch provided)

A Short Message and Special Thanks

Many long nights and early mornings went into the planning and organization of this conference. We hope it will continue on for years to come, as these ideas plant the seeds for a much-needed, new form of economic development in Indian Country. The first annual conference paved the roads to Chaco Canyon starting from the University of Arizona and the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. The second annual conference, paved the road to Chaco Canyon all the way from the Coshatta Tribe of Louisiana. This year, we continue that tradition, and once again pave another road back to Chaco Canyon for Native Nations to follow.

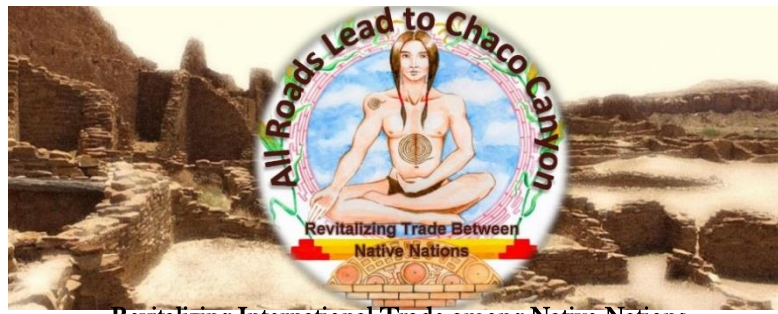
If Native Nations can learn anything, it is that the answers to many of their economic woes may not be found within books, but instead, they lie within their roots and history. The canyon walls of Chaco Canyon tell a story about a time and place where Native Nations once gathered to engage in international trade, exchange ideas, and solidify international relations. That story has been forgotten, but this conference uses it to remind Native Nations of what we once were and what we could be—strong, independent nations. This is why we say that in the area of tribal economic development “All Roads Lead to Chaco Canyon” and why every year we focus on paving the way back to our origins. Perhaps one day, we can pave the way for Native Nations to enter the international economy and revitalize a necessary aspect of economic development—international trade.

We would like to thank the following individuals, organizations, and groups who helped put this conference together:

Ernest Sickey, Former Chairman of Coshatta

David Sickey, Chairman of Coshatta

The Coshatta Tribe of Louisiana



Revitalizing International Trade among Native Nations

By Joseph Austin and Adam Crepelle

International trade and international relations are not new concepts to the indigenous peoples of the world. Native Nations in the western hemisphere once had expansive trade networks that extended from Canada to South America. Evidence can be found in the historic trade hubs like Paquime, Cahokia, Etzana, and Chaco Canyon. However, European contact disrupted these traditional trade networks.

Since its founding, the United States has made it a priority to control Native economies. Consequently, much of Indian Country suffers from a dearth of economic opportunities resulting in high poverty and staggering unemployment rates, which leads to social problems like substance abuse and high violent crime rates.

Native Nations have sought solutions to their economic malaise for decades. Gaming and federal programs are often the proposed answer. Despite the tremendous financial benefits that gaming has brought some Native Nations, many Native leaders think gaming is on the decline. Moreover, federal support is unreliable—particularly under the current administration—because it can be cut on a political whim. The lending industry is the current hot topic in Native economic development, but regulatory uncertainty makes the industry’s future precarious. Accordingly, gaming, lending, and federal programs are shaky foundations to build a Native Nation upon. A new method of economic development is desperately needed in Indian Country, a method that will provide Native Nations with greater control over their future.

Some Native Nations have found it in international trade. For example, the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana has a trade deal with Israel, and the Morongo Band of Mission Indians has a trade deal with South Korea. There is also an effort underway to include indigenous trade in the North American Free Trade Agreement. International trade is a path Native Nations can take to shuck their “domestic-dependent nation” status and join the global economy.

Making international trade deals is an exercise of Native sovereignty and the future of economic development for indigenous peoples worldwide. It is a proven path to wealth, essential to the growth of a nation, and an indigenous tradition.

Join indigenous leaders and experts in various fields as they gather in Tucson, Arizona on March 23rd and 24th to answer one question: How can indigenous peoples use the global trade model to revitalize trade networks domestically and internationally? Learn how even in this modern economic era, *All Roads Lead to Chaco Canyon*.

**Above article was published in the March 2018 issue of the Tribal Business Journal. Available at: <https://go.epublish4me.com/ebook/html/10096406#page/50>*

From Tribes to Nations: Revitalizing International Trade among Native Nations

By Joseph Austin and Adam Crepelle

When asked for solutions to the issues plaguing Indian Country, Raymond D. Austin, Justice Emeritus of the Navajo Nation Supreme Court, recounts the time when he met with the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs in the early 1990s. At the time, the late senator from Hawaii, Daniel Inouye, served as the committee's chairman. During the meeting, Senator Inouye told Native leaders, "If you want to be respected and treated like nations, then act like nations."

Native Nations would do well to remember the words of Senator Inouye and ask themselves what being a nation means. Being a nation means having a land base, citizenry, government, and an economy—the elements of nationhood. Moving forward and surviving as a nation requires maintaining each element. Native Nations struggle to do this, particularly in regards to their economy.

Maintaining and growing an economy is difficult for Native Nations because they lack a critical element: international trade. Look at the history of any nation and it becomes evident that trade is a necessary component of a nation's economy. Nations, regardless of location, government, and people, engage in international trade as a means of economic development. This is not an academic theory but an economic principle that applies to all nations including the indigenous nations of the world.

In fact, studies by anthropologists and archeologists show that the Native Nations in the western hemisphere understood the value of international trade long before any European set foot in the Americas. They developed infrastructure for complex business transactions. Hundreds of books and articles have been written about Native trade goods being found over 1,000 miles from their source. Closer examination verified that those items moved from their origin to their destination via one of the many Native trade routes that extended across the North and South American continents.

Moreover, the Native Nations of the Americas developed laws to facilitate international trade. There were systems of currency, measurement, and credit. Yet, those trade networks and systems were disrupted during European contact. Centuries of genocide, war, assimilation, and colonization left the Native Nations in a state of devastation and ruin. However, the elements of nationhood still remained.

If Native Nations are indeed nations, then they must act accordingly. This means re-instilling a vital part of their economy: international trade. International trade, as shown above, is not a new concept. It is simply an exercise of a nation's sovereignty.

**Above article to be published in the April 2018 issue of the Tribal Business Journal*



Adam Crepelle is general counsel of A&E Touch and a tribal law and policy consultant. He is an enrolled citizen of the United Houma Nation.



Joseph Austin, Esq. is an Indian law attorney and the CEO of Olea, Solórzano Austin, LLC. He is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation.

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