

# SHAWN K. WATTS

385 Harlingen Rd. • Belle Mead, NJ 08502 • 732-322-5138 • swatts1@law.columbia.edu

## CLINICAL LEGAL EDUCATION INNOVATION

COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL, New York, NY

January 2013-Present

*Lecturer in Law and Associate Director, Mediation Clinic at Columbia Law School, Peacemaking Founder*

- Founded a new area of legal study and education, called Native American Peacemaking, based on traditional indigenous dispute resolution, transformative theory, and tribal techniques.
- Developed and designed cutting-edge curriculum for translating indigenous practices into a law school setting while retaining cultural authenticity. Shared the curriculum and techniques with other law professors who then launched classes at several other law schools.
- Developed and crafted the ethical model standards for indigenous communities conducting peacemaking.
- Designed clinical practicum for students to work with indigenous leaders on the ground in indigenous communities including supervising research and systems design projects, drafting legal code, conducting complex community dispute facilitation training, and conducting skills training modules.
- Designed Advanced Mediation Clinic curriculum and model to provide students with advanced clinical pedagogy, systems design skills, project management skills, team leadership and supervision skills, and partner and client interaction and management skills.
- Created Pro Bono Scholars Program to provide free direct supervised student legal services to government agency employees experiencing discrimination in the workplace. Students received a full semester of legal academic credit for their service.
- Teach clinical course in mediation incorporating mediation theory, research, statutes, and model standards.
- Ten consecutive semesters of full or overloaded course and supervision, teaching at least seven clinical credit hours and as many as nineteen clinical credits per semester.
- Winner of the Parker School of Foreign and Comparative Law Global Innovation Award for pioneering international peace summits to train ambassadors in peace dialogue skills and practice.

YALE LAW SCHOOL, New Haven, CT

August 2016-January 2017

*Visiting Clinical Lecturer in Law, Native American Peacemaking*

- Combined peacemaking and mediation training to expand the reach of tribal traditional transformative dispute resolution methods to multiple universities.
- Trained students in federal Indian law and tribal law with special emphasis on tribal sovereignty and the limits of applicable federal statutes.
- Designed research and systems design projects for indigenous communities on subjects including foster care compliance, Indian Child Welfare Act, and federal recognition statutes.
- Designed and led student voter protection trips to ensure indigenous people on the Pine Ridge and Rosebud Sioux reservations were able to exercise their voting rights.

NATIONAL TAIWAN UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL, Taipei, TW

Winter Term 2017-2018

*Visiting Professor of Law*

- Founder of the mediation clinic at National Taiwan University Law School.
- Designed and developed clinical legal curriculum tailored to Taiwanese culture.
- Created model for teaching assistant led clinical supervision.

## EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING DESIGN

UNITED NATIONS, New York, NY

May 2016-Present

*Recognized Expert in Mediation and Conflict Resolution, UNITAR Teaching Faculty*

- Founder of historic partnership in mediation and conflict resolution with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research.
- Designed new training methods for United Nations trainings based on interactive practice of theory and application of skills.

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- Pioneered new training models for UN Forum of Small States on empowering women in the peace process, using conflict resolution as a tool for innovation, building leadership capacity, and sustainable peace.
- Designed leadership and negotiation skills acquisition model to help nations prepare for appointment to UN Security Council.
- Created model for training multilateral organization of nations on drafting documents for effective communications and negotiation with international bodies.

NATIVE AMERICAN RIGHTS FUND, Boulder, CO

March 2014-Present

*Peacemaking Advisory Board Member, Teaching Faculty*

- Created model for integrating transformative, traditional indigenous dispute resolution into child welfare and family court proceedings.
- Designed trainings for tribal judges, lawyers, and advocates from multiple indigenous nations.
- Introduced theory and practice model for culturally appropriate justice for indigent, indigenous defendants accused of criminal offenses in tribal courts.

## LEGAL PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

SHEPPARD MULLIN RICHTER & HAMPTON LLP, New York, NY

May 2011-October 2013

*Associate, Tribal and Indian Law, Finance and Bankruptcy*

- Drafted transactional documents for multi-million dollar financings for Indian tribes.
- Drafted contracts for athletes from all major professional team sports including representation, sponsorship, and appearance deals.
- Ran due diligence processes for finance and bankruptcy deals.
- Represented both debtors and creditors in major bankruptcy and corporate reorganization.
- Provided *pro bono* assistance to the Indian Law Resource Center at the United Nations Permanent Forum on the Rights of Indigenous People.
- Worked with Four Directions on the Rosebud Sioux Reservation to protect voting rights for Native Americans.
- Represented New York Taxi Union in regulatory suit.
- Prepared extensive reports on film tax incentives.
- Wrote counter-complaint in an entertainment contract dispute.
- Prepared briefs on Federal Rules of Civil Procedure; Co-chair, New York office Diversity Inclusion Attorney Network.

## STUDENT MENTORSHIP AND ADVISORY

January 2013-Present

- Faculty advisor for student major and minor writing requirement and law journal articles.
- Coordinated tribal outreach for clinical projects for tribes around the country including the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation, Mashantucket Pequot Tribe, Mohegan Tribe, and many others.
- Lead ongoing student voter protection project for South Dakota tribes for presidential and midterm elections.
- Co-founded and designed ongoing tribal wills clinic project drafting wills for multiple Wisconsin tribes.
- Columbia Law School Native American Law Students Association faculty mentor.
- Columbia Law School First Generation Professionals faculty mentor.
- Student journal articles writing supervisor for various Indian law topics, conflict resolution topics, and restorative justice topics.
- Native student recruiter at Columbia Law School.

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## WRITING

- "The Role of Language Interpretation in Providing a Quality Mediation Process," *Contemporary Asia Arbitration Journal*, Vol. 9, No. 2, pp. 301-316, November 2016.
- Contributing Editor for the *Clinical Law Prof Blog*.
- "The Sustained Attack on Tribal Sovereign Immunity - The Increased Application of the Ex Parte Young Doctrine to Tribal Government Officers," *California Indian Law Association Newsletter*, Spring 2013.
- "Are Tribal Corps. Eligible for Bankruptcy Protection?" *Law360*, March 13, 2013.
- "Committee's Attack Upon Lender's Make-Whole Premium Denied," *Finance and Bankruptcy Blog*, June 27, 2013.

## SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- "Transforming Justice Systems for Families: ACE to Recovering Resiliency," National American Indian Court Judges Association Tribal Justice Conference, October 2017.
- "Principles of Peacemaking in Child Welfare," Washington State Children's Justice Conference, April 2017.
- "Native Peacemaking and Restorative Justice," Yale Rebellious Lawyering Conference, February 2017.
- "Promoting Traditional and Restorative Principles to Strengthen Safety, Justice, and Healing," National American Indian Court Judges Association Conference, October 2016.
- "Developing a Mediation Clinic Model for Taiwanese Legal Education," Taipei International Conference on Arbitration and Mediation, August 2016.
- "Exploring Sentencing Alternatives: Looking Beyond Incarceration," American Indian Justice Conference, June 2016.
- "Rabbit-Proof Fence," Faculty Film Series, Columbia Law School, April 2016.
- "Diversity of Dialogue," University of Connecticut Diversity Week Keynote Address, March 2016.
- "Historical Trauma and the Indigenous Defendant," University of New Mexico Peacemaking Roundtable, March, 2016.
- "Tribal Self-Governance and Self-Determination," Yale Rebellious Lawyering Conference, Feb. 2016.
- "Native Peacemaking" Yale Rebellious Lawyering Conference, February 2015.
- "Peacemaking from the Ground Up," National Tribal Justice and Court Clerks' Conference and NAICJA Annual Meeting, October 2014.
- "Preparing the Next Generation of Peacemakers: Academic and Court Training Options," National Tribal Justice and Court Clerks' Conference and NAICJA Annual Meeting, October 2014.

## EDUCATION

COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL, New York, NY Juris Doctor Received May 2012

Honors: Jane Marks Murphy Prize for Exceptional Proficiency in Advocacy in Clinical Offerings.  
Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar awarded for achieving academic distinction based on G.P.A.  
Strine Fellowship for Outstanding Service to Native Americans.

National Native American Law Students Association 2L of the year, 2010-2011.

Activities: Managing Editor, *Journal of Law and Social Problems*, 2011-2012.  
President, National Native American Law Student Association, 2011-2012.  
Will Writer, Wisconsin Judicare Indian Law Division, Columbia Law Spring Caravan, 2011.  
National Native American Law Student Association, Moot Court Editor, 2011.  
Moot Court Committee President, Columbia Native American Law Student Association, 2011.  
Native American Law Student Association National Moot Court competitor, 2010.

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, Santa Fe, NM

Bachelor of Arts Received May 2000

Major: Liberal Arts

Honors: Most Outstanding Contribution to Athletics; Laboratory Science Teaching Assistant.

Activities: Co-Founded and Directed Native American Preparatory School Tutoring Program.