



**Native American Voting Rights Coalition  
Great Lakes Field Hearing Agenda  
October 16, 2017  
8:15AM-1:15PM  
NCAI 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention & Marketplace  
Wisconsin Center/102A**

**Carolyn Beaulieu**

Carolyn Beaulieu is a member of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe in Minnesota. Beaulieu has served as the Band's Secretary-Treasurer since 2014. Her career with the Band began in 2001 and after several years worked as an Executive Assistant and Associate Relations Director for the Band's Corporate Commission. Beaulieu then served as the Commissioner of Administration for the Chief Executive and represented the Band as a Government Relations Representative. Beaulieu is a Veteran who served in the United States Army. Beaulieu also serves as NCAI's Alternate Area Vice President for the Midwest Region. Beaulieu earned a Master's of Tribal Administration and Governance (MTAG) degree from the University of Minnesota-Duluth.

**Chairwoman Regina Gasco Bentley**

Chairwoman Regina Gasco Bentley is a member of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians in Michigan. Chairwoman Bentley was born in Harbor Springs, Michigan where she attended the Holy Childhood Catholic Indian Boarding School. She then went on to graduate from Boyne Falls High School. Chairwoman Bentley has lived in Northern Michigan all of her life. She is a wife, a mother, and an Odawa woman. Chairwoman Bentley enjoys spending her free time with her family and attending events in the Tribal community. She has served the LTBB citizens for over fourteen years. She first served as a Tribal Councilor for twelve years. She is now in her second term as the Tribal Chairperson. One of Chairwoman Bentley's first acts as Tribal Chairperson was to sign into law the Nibiish Naagdownen: "The Care of Water": Clean Water Act. Chairwoman Bentley is currently the Secretary of the United Tribes of Michigan and is also the Vice Chairperson for the Great Lakes Resource Committee.

**Tony Brown**

Tony Brown is a member of the Menominee in Wisconsin. Brown was a 2015 and 2016 Native get out the vote Wisconsin state team member. Brown has also participated in Wisconsin Leadership Development (WILD) Training. Brown is a former Indian Health Service employee and worked in health education for over 20 years, including time spent in Alaska.



## **Matt Dannenberg**

Matt Dannenberg is a member of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa in Wisconsin. Dannenberg is a Field Director with Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters. He was raised off reservation, but in 2011, reconnected to fight the Gogebic Taconite iron ore mine from coming to the headwaters of the Bad River watershed. The tribes of Wisconsin prevailed in that fight. In 2012, he created the WI Native Vote campaign which engages WI's native communities in voter education, registration, and mobilization during the fall general elections. He has a passion for leadership development, and lifting up voices of marginalized communities. Matt is on the board of Wisconsin Voices, (WI's civic engagement table) and the board of visitors of the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies.

## **Paul DeMain**

Paul DeMain is a member of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin (Bear Clan) and is of Ojibwe descent. DeMain currently lives on the Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation near Hayward, Wisconsin. DeMain is the publisher of "News From Indian Country" and a video producer for IndianCountryTV.com. DeMain is also a current Administrative Committee member for the Democratic Party of Wisconsin and ran unsuccessfully for Wisconsin State Senate in 2014. DeMain was formerly the tribal policy advisor to Wisconsin Governor Anthony S. Wisconsin. DeMain was also the Vice Presidential campaign manager for the Nader/LaDuke Green Party ticket in 2000.

## **Debra Haaland**

Debra Haaland is a member of the Laguna, Pueblo in New Mexico. Haaland is the former Chair of the Democratic Party of New Mexico, a position in which she garnered national recognition as the first Native American woman elected to chair a major state party. Haaland was also the first Native American Democratic candidate for Lieutenant of Governor of New Mexico in the 2014 elections. Haaland is a graduate of UNM and the UNM School of Law. She is the former Chairwoman of the Laguna Development Corporation (LDC) Board of Directors. As the first woman elected to the Chair position in LDC history, Haaland helped to oversee the business operations, strategies and initiatives of the second largest tribal gaming enterprise in New Mexico. Haaland is a former tribal administrator who has advocated for Indian issues for many years. Haaland is a proud mother of another UNM graduate, her daughter Soma. Haaland is currently a 2018 Democratic candidate seeking election to the US House to represent the 1st Congressional District of New Mexico.

## **Chairman Vinton Hawley**

Chairman Vinton Hawley is a member of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe and is also of Hopi and Tewa descent of First Mesa, Arizona. Chairman Hawley has been serving as the Tribal Chairman of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe since 2015. Chairman Hawley formerly served as President of the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada and was the former Chairman of the National Indian Health Board. Chairman Hawley was



raised in Nixon, Nevada and was immersed in tribal culture on a daily basis, having daily interaction with tribal elders specifically his Great Grandmother. Chairman Hawley speaks the Paiute Language and before being seated as the Tribal Chairman of Pyramid Lake he strived to preserve cultural values and preserve primitive arts and ways of life of the NUMU. Chairman Hawley is an accomplished Numu Basket Weaver and although he has many roles within the tribal community, as the Tribal Chairman he continues to promote cultural preservation.

### **Rep. Frederick P. Kessler**

Frederick P. Kessler is a State Representative for the 12th Assembly District, which includes the northwest side of Milwaukee and a portion of the City of Wauwatosa. He was recently elected to his 8th term in the legislature. His legislative career began on his 21st birthday in 1961 and spanned into the early 1970's. He returned to the legislature in 2004 where he continues to serve. Kessler also works as a labor arbitrator and redistricting consultant. Kessler has lengthy redistricting experience. As Chair of the Assembly Elections Committee in 1971-72 he successfully negotiated a legislatively adopted plan through a divided Assembly and Senate that required districts to have coterminous lines; the plan was never challenged in court. In 1991-92 he was a Consultant for the Wisconsin State Senate. During that same time, and during the 2001-02 session, Kessler was the Consultant for the Nevada Democratic Legislators and successfully negotiated plans through their divided legislature that were never challenged in court.

### **Chairman Aaron Payment**

Chairman Aaron Payment is a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians in Michigan. Chairman Payment is serving his third term as Chairperson of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Chairperson Payment also serves on a host of National boards and committees including the National Advisory Council on Indian Education, as an NCAI Executive Officer, and as HHS Secretary Tribal Advisory Council Member, among others. A high school drop-out from an impoverished reservation community, Chairperson Payment has since earned a G.E.D., Bachelor's Degree (1988 Lake Superior State University/Northern Michigan University), Master's in Public Administration (1991 Northern Michigan University), coursework for a second Master's degrees in Education Administration (Northern Michigan University), and a doctorate in Educational Leadership (2017 Central Michigan University). Since 1993, he has provided annual tribal governance training to future Michigan legislators through the Michigan Political Leadership Program. Payment worked 16 summers with the Upward Bound program preparing youth for a college education and five summers coordinating the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan Anishinaabe Future Leaders Program.

### **Stephanie Thompson**

Stephanie Thompson is a member of the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa in Wisconsin. Thompson is the First Nation's Organizer for Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters. She lives with her



tribe in Lac du Flambeau, taking an active role in her community by serving on several boards and committees for her Tribe. In 2016, she worked with the WI Native Vote campaign, engaging native communities in education of Voter ID laws, registration, and mobilization to the polls. She is committed to helping recognize the power Native voices already have, and addressing the barriers Native communities face in fully participating and being heard in the state and federal governments.

### **Burton Warrington**

Burton W. Warrington is Menominee, Prairie Band Potawatomi and Ho-Chunk in Wisconsin. Warrington currently serves as the President of Indian Ave Group (IAG), a management consulting firm. Warrington is also of-counsel to Fletcher Law, PLLC, a law firm providing clients with both legal representation and strategic public policy consulting services. As President and CEO of Prairie Band, LLC, Warrington developed and managed the economic holding company for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. As a Counselor to the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs – U.S. Department of Interior, Warrington was involved in a variety of national issues including Indian gaming, economic and energy development, fee-to-trust issues, and natural resource and cultural rights protection. Warrington holds an Associates of Arts degree in Entrepreneurial Studies and Bachelors of Science degree in Business Administration – Tribal Management from Haskell Indian Nations University and a Juris Doctor degree from the University Of Kansas School Of Law, where he also received his Tribal Lawyer Certificate. Warrington is licensed to practice law in the State of Kansas and various Tribal Jurisdictions.