

**CONTACT**

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**PRACTICE AREAS**

Endangered Species  
Litigation & Administrative  
Proceedings  
Native Affairs  
NEPA & State Equivalents  
Oil & Gas Development

**EDUCATION**

University of Denver, Sturm  
College of Law  
College of the Holy Cross

**BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS**

Colorado State Bar  
Ft. Berthold Tribal Court  
Osage Nation Tribal Courts  
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth  
Circuit

**MARANDA S. COMPTON**

**PARTNER**



**Professional Background**

Maranda focuses her practice on all aspects of Native American law and policy. She is experienced in representing both tribal and non-tribal clients in a wide range of federal regulatory, environmental, energy, and natural resources issues.

For her clients, Maranda provides a deep understanding of the diverse and complex factors involved in disputes, transactions and regulations involving American Indian tribes. Applying her personal knowledge of Indian Country, she often serves as a valuable liaison between tribal and non-tribal parties, helping clients find favorable outcomes in commercial transactions; project permitting; issues of federal, state and tribal regulation; and environmental regulation.

Maranda's Indian law and tribal expertise is valuable across a wide range of industries. Specifically, Maranda counsels energy clients and project proponents in negotiations and consultation with tribes, where she brings a wealth of knowledge of the federal leasing and right-of-way regulations, tribal versus state jurisdiction, environmental permitting, and tribal employment rights. In the corporate context, Maranda represents tribal and non-tribal businesses and banks in commercial and lending transactions and related areas of federal, state, and tribal regulation. Maranda also represents tribal governmental and economic development entities on various matters relating to tribal regulatory development and code drafting, cultural preservation issues, compliance management and internal investigations, and commercial enterprise operation and financing. And when impassible issues arise, Maranda represents tribal and non-tribal clients in litigation in state, federal and tribal courts, as well as alternative dispute resolution.

Prior to joining Van Ness Feldman, Maranda worked for a large international law firm in their Denver, Colorado office. Maranda also served as a law clerk to Justice Allison H. Eid of the Supreme Court of Colorado (now of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit) and clerked for the Native American Rights Fund while in law school.

Maranda is an enrolled member of the Delaware Tribe of Indians.

**Representative Experience**

- Assisted energy industry group in development and hosting of unique, one-of-a-kind program bringing together tribal leaders and industry professionals in a dialogue to improve tribal/industry relationships.
- Advises project proponent clients – including hydroelectric, pipeline, renewables, and tourism/surface lease developments – on strategies for Tribal engagement.
- Advises FERC licensee of hydroelectric project regarding treaty and ceremonial and subsistence fishing claims.
- Aids corporate clients in development of tribal engagement and environmental justice protocols.
- Assists tribal governments in the development and implementation of tribal codes, including regulations pertaining to water, consumer finance, e-commerce, privacy, and commercial activities and business entity formation.
- Advises municipality on development issues involving tribal property and treaty interests.

- Develops comprehensive tribal employment preference compliance programs for non-tribal companies operating on tribal lands.
- Negotiates joint ventures, service provider relationships, and commercial financing between non-tribal and tribal entities, including extensive restructuring of existing relationships.
- Represents tribes and tribal enterprises in federal agency investigations and state enforcement actions.
- Represents tribal and non-tribal clients in a wide-range of federal appeals, drafting briefs for cases before U.S. District Courts, U.S. Courts of Appeals, and the U.S. Supreme Court regarding tribal jurisdiction, federal and state taxation, applicability of federal laws, and sovereign immunity.

### Government Service

#### Supreme Court of the State of Colorado, Justice Allison H. Eid

Law Clerk, 2010-2011

### Professional and Civic Affiliations

Enrolled Member of the Delaware Tribe of Indians and the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma

### Awards and Honors

#### Super Lawyers

*Colorado Super Lawyers* "Rising Star" 2013-2018

#### [Top Women in Energy 2017, Denver Business Journal](#)

Winner, National American Indian Law Review Writing Competition, 2009

### Articles and Presentations

- Speaker, "Economic Sovereignty--How to Execute Capital Markets Transactions for Indian Country Businesses" - Native Business Summit 2019, Tulsa OK , 05/13/2019
- Presenter - US v. Washington Culvert Subproceeding: Implications on the Regulated Community in the Northwest, Seattle WA, 07/10/2018
- Speaker, "A Practical Guide to Planning and Permitting a Pipeline" - Midstream Oil & Gas from the Upstream Perspective, Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation, Houston TX, 04/24/2018
- Speaker, "Building Relationships with Tribes/First Nations to Improve Water Management" - HydroVision International 2017, Denver CO, 06/27/2017
- VNF Talks: Roles of Northwest Tribes in Infrastructure Permitting, Seattle WA, 12/14/2016
- White House Issues Draft Guidance on Considering Climate Change in NEPA Documents, Martindale.com, 03/05/2010
- Regulating Sovereignty: Resource Development and Regulation Under Tribal Energy Resource Agreements, Native American Indian Law Review, 01/01/2009

### Alerts

- Update of National Artificial Intelligence Strategic Plan: What Clients Need to Know, 10/02/2018
- Executive Actions May Impact the Future of Energy Infrastructure Projects and Domestic Manufacturing, 01/26/2017
- Army Corps of Engineers Releases 2017 Nationwide Permits, 01/19/2017
- Dakota Access Challenges Army Corps After Easement Determination Stalled, 12/13/2016
- EPA Expands Tribal Authority to Administer Clean Water Act Programs on Reservations

Part of a Host of New Administration Initiatives Addressing Tribal Issues , 09/29/2016

- Obama Administration Seeks Tribal Input on Federal Infrastructure Decisions, Dakota Access Litigation Continues, 09/29/2016
- Federal Intervention in Dakota Access Pipeline Project Focuses on Tribal Consultation Process, 09/13/2016