Continuing Legal Education

What Are We Doing To Diversify Our Legal Profession: A Look at Pipeline Projects within Our State and Diversity in the Workforce

PRESENTATION SUMMARY

This CLE hosted by the Native American Bar Association of Arizona (NABA-AZ), a member of the AZCB, will provide a two-part session on diversity in our legal profession. The first session (non-CLE) will consist of representatives from Arizona’s community colleges, law schools and affinity bar associations addressing the importance of pipeline projects and current pipeline projects offered for prospective law students.

Pipeline projects are essential to reaching students at earlier stages of education to further diversity in law schools and within the legal profession. Pipeline projects include, but are not limited to: early outreach from elementary school through college by visiting schools to share information about the law and legal careers; pre-law advising program that offer LSAT or graduate preparation scholarships and programs; and mentorship opportunities at multi-levels of a student’s educational path.

The second panel (1 Hour CLE Credit) will include two former national affinity bar presidents who both practice in Corporate America-Linda Benally, Corporate Attorney, Pinnacle West Capital Corporation, and Immediate Past President, National Native American Bar Association, and George Chen, Partner, Bryan Cave, and Immediate Past President of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association. Linda and George will discuss recruitment and retention of diversity attorneys and how diversity in the workforce translates into better work product, client relations and overall business success.

Speakers: Linda Benally, Corporate Attorney, Pinnacle West Capital Corporation, and Immediate Past President, National Native American Bar Association; George Chen, Partner, Bryan Cave, and Immediate Past President of National Asian Pacific American Bar Association; Felicia Lorraine Ganther, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, Maricopa Community Colleges; Jessica Sanchez, President, Los Abogados; Anita Simons, President, Arizona Minority Bar Association; Kate Rosier, Executive Director, Indian Legal Program at Sandra Day O’Connor College University of Arizona; Justin Boro, Assistant Director, James E. Rogers College of Law Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy Program; and Arizona Summit Law School (invited).


Event Info: Nov 30 | 11:30-2 p.m. | Room 644 | Free
Lunch will be provided to those who register

Register Here
PRESENTATION SCHEDULE

Lunch & Registration: 11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
CLE Program: 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
CLE Credit: 1 Hour CLE Credit
Cost: Free. Space is limited, so please RSVP soon.

RSVP by November 23th:

Register/pay/rsvp here:

Thank you to Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie for sponsoring the lunch for this event.
Linda Benally

Linda is in-house regulatory counsel at Pinnacle West Capital Corporation at its corporate headquarters in Phoenix, Arizona. Ms. Benally focuses her practice in regulatory law in the electric utility industry. Before joining Pinnacle West, Ms. Benally held several management and human resources positions at Arizona Public Service Company.

Linda, a citizen of the Dinè Nation, has served the legal profession and the community in various volunteer leadership roles. She has been appointed by the president of the American Bar Association to the ABA’s Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession. She is the Immediate Past-President of the National Native American Bar Association (NNABA). During her tenure as NNABA President in 2015-2016, she founded the Presidents’ Roundtable, which brought together the presidents of American Indian Bar Associations across the country for the first time in NNABA’s history. She is a co-founder of the Native American Bar Association of Arizona. She was instrumental in successfully launching their fundraising strategy. She also served several terms as the President of the Phoenix Indian Center, Inc. Board of Directors. Under her leadership, the Center increased the levels of service delivery and programming, and successfully revamped their fund development strategy. She also served as a consultant to the Commission of Indian Affairs in Arizona. She is the recipient of awards from the State Bar of Arizona and the Phoenix Native American Community.

George Chen

George Chen is a Partner at Bryan Cave LLP, is the chair of the intellectual property practice in the Phoenix office, and was a co-chair of the firm-wide Lawyers of Color Affinity Group. He partners with long term clients to develop, protect, litigate, and license intellectual property. His recent representations include: (1) representing electronics companies, eCommerce and software companies, transportation and storage companies, and gun manufacturers in utility and design patent and trade dress infringement, and unfair competition lawsuits; (2) representing a real estate developer and an Internet search company in trademark infringement, trademark dilution, and Internet cybersquatting lawsuits; (3) representing software companies in copyright infringement and breach of contract lawsuits; and (4) preparing and prosecuting patent, trademark, and copyright applications for universities, eCommerce companies, and consumer electronics companies.

George is recognized by Super Lawyers® and Best Lawyers of America® for excellence in intellectual property law and litigation, and has been honored as a “Top Pro Bono Attorney” by the Arizona Foundation for Legal Services & Education. He also is a co-inventor of 4 US patents.

George is the Immediate Past President of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA).

George earned his Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering, with a minor in economics, from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He worked as an engineer at Motorola, Inc. while he earned his Masters of Science in electrical engineering, with an emphasis in solid state electronics, from Arizona State University, and before earning his Juris Doctorate with honors from Arizona State University’s Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law.

MCLE CREDIT

The state bar of Arizona does not approve or accredit CLE activities for the mandatory continuing legal education requirement. This activity may qualify for up to 1.00 hour toward your annual CLE requirement for the state bar of Arizona, including 0.00 hour(s) of professional responsibility.