



# COUGAR DEN

TRIBAL FUEL TRANSPORT / TRIBAL FUEL NETWORK

*Reply to White Swan Office*

*April 19, 2024*

*Submitted Via mywsba.org*

Washington State Bar Association  
Attn: Indian Law Section Executive Committee  
1325 Fourth Ave., Suite 600  
Seattle, WA 98101

Re: Indian Law Section - Letter of Interest for At-Large Member Position

Dear Executive Committee and Members:

I write to express my interest in one of the open “At-Large Member” positions within the Indian Law Section Executive Committee.

I currently serve as the General Counsel and Chief Business Development Officer for Ramsey Companies Inc. - a group of tribal member-owned, Yakama Nation enterprises, whose mission is to enhance economic development and opportunities in Indian Country while advocating for and protecting the Indigenous right to self-determination. As General Counsel, I have assisted on Indigenous rights litigation and policy matters across the country, including spending time in Washington, D.C. working with the Tribal Economic and Tax Reform Advocacy Alliance.

Before going in-house, I worked at the law firm of Stokes Lawrence where I assisted in the representation of Tribes and their members on a number of projects, including representing Cougar Den, Inc. in *Washington State Dep't of Licensing v. Cougar Den, Inc.*, 139 S. Ct. 1000 (2019). Most recently, I graduated from the University of Oklahoma College of Law with an LLM Master of Laws degree – specializing in the field of Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy. I am hopeful that my background can be of service to continuing the work of the Indian Law Section.

Sincerely,

*Jaime Cuevas Jr.*

**Jaime Cuevas Jr.**  
**EDUCATION**

**Gonzaga University School of Law**

Spokane, WA

*Juris Doctor, Accelerated Program, magna cum laude, May 2016*

**The University of Oklahoma College of Law**

Norman/Virtual, OK

*L.L.M., Master of Laws in Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy, May 2022*

Indigenous Peoples Law Reception Speaker at the First Americans Museum in Oklahoma City.

**Washington State University**

Pullman, WA

*Bachelor of Elementary Education, summa cum laude, May 2014*

- Certified to teach K-8 in Washington State/Passed West E Exam.

**EXPERIENCE**

**Ramsey Companies**

White Swan, WA

*General Counsel & Chief Business Development Officer, March 2020 - Present*

- ***Ramsey Companies is comprised of the following Tribal-Member owned companies incorporated under the laws of the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation: Cougar Den, Inc. | Tiin-Ma Logging Company, Inc. | White Swan Farm Supply, Inc. | Wolf Den, Inc. | LR Ranches, Inc. | Tribal Fuel Network, Inc.***
- Oversee all legal and regulatory compliance matters, including national litigation and policy advocacy.
- Manage outside legal counsel, including negotiating rates, scope of work, deadlines, and priorities.
- Advised and worked as co-counsel with outside law firms on nationwide treaty rights litigation focused on business development impacting Tribal Nations and their communities.
- Assist with and manage business and corporate development with Federally Recognized Tribal Nations.
- Assist with managing government relations and agreements with Tribal Nations and their enterprises.
- Oversee tax exempt status of Tribal Corporations and tax-exempt treaty protected business activity.
- Draft day-to-day operational documents and agreements across a number of business industries.
- Oversee legal intersectionality of cultural rights held by Tribal Nations and neighboring jurisdictions.

**Stokes Lawrence**

Yakima, WA

*Litigation/Employment Law Associate, May 2016- March 2020*

- Assisted in representation of tribal enterprise on treaty rights issue in successful proceedings before the Washington Supreme Court and the U.S. Supreme Court. *See Washington State Dep't of Licensing v. Cougar Den, Inc., 16-1498, 2019 WL 1245535 (U.S. Mar. 19, 2019).*
- Successfully represented business clients in a variety of matters, such as business disputes and general litigation surrounding labor and employment law, agriculture law, and contract law.
- Assisted business clients with legal compliance of municipal, state, federal, and international laws.
- Reviewed, revised, and drafted employee handbooks and other related employment documents.
- Conducted employee harassment and discrimination trainings in both English and Spanish.
- Maintained an active pro-bono practice that included the successful representation of a family of seven in their asylum proceedings before U.S. Immigration Court and acted as cooperating counsel in a Voting Rights Act case that changed the electoral scheme for the city of Pasco, Washington.

**Gonzaga University Legal Assistance Law Clerk**

Spokane, WA

*General Practice/Indian Law Clinic, January 2015-August 2015*

- Represented clients charged with misdemeanor crimes in Kalispel Tribal Court.

## **SAMPLE OF PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS**

- Indian Law Panel, panelist, Supreme Court Year in Review, Social Justices Decisions, Gonzaga University School of Law (October 2019).
- “U.S. Supreme Court Upholds Yakama Treaty Rights in Washington State Department of Licensing v. Cougar Den, Inc.,” co-author, article, Indian Law Newsletter (Spring 2019).
- Past Presenter at Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, Tax Subcommittee (ATNI) & National Intertribal Tax Alliance Re. Cougar Den, Inc. (2021-2023)
- “History, Math, and Science: Hitting the Books to Understand the Voting Rights Act of 1965,” presenter, Yakima Valley Community College – Diversity Series (October 2016).

## **PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**

- Member, Tribal Economic & Tax Reform Advocacy Alliance (TETRAA)
- Gonzaga University School of Law Board of Advisors, Board Member (Fall 2020-Present)
- YMCA Yakima Board of Advisors, Board Member (February 2023-Present)
- ACLU WA Legal Committee Member (May 2021 – Present)
- JustLead Washington Leadership Academy, Graduate (2020)
- Campaign for Equal Justice, Board Member (May 2019 – March 2022)
- Access to Justice Conference Planning Committee, Co-Chair (2019-2022)
- Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce, Board Member (2018 – 2020)

## **OTHER SKILLS & INTERESTS**

Biliterate in Spanish, U.S. Soccer Grassroots Coaching License, Youth soccer, baseball, and football Coach