

# *11TH ANNUAL JUDGES' DINNER FOR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA*

CHAMPIONS IN COLLABORATION 2022

## **Honorable Lawrence King**

Chief Judge Lawrence King joined the Morongo Band of Mission Indians in 2020. Judge King was the Chief Judge for the Colorado River Indian Tribes Tribal Court, he was with that Court since 2009. He is a Magistrate for the Town of Paradise Valley. He serves as a Pro Tempore Justice of the Peace in La Paz County, and a Deputy Judge for the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California. Before his appointment as Chief Judge for the Colorado River Indian Tribes in 2014, Judge King worked as a Judge Pro Tempore and Acting Chief Judge for Colorado River Indian Tribes; Judge Pro Tempore for the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, the Hualapai Tribe and the White Mountain Apache Tribe. Judge King is on the Board of the Arizona Magistrates Association and is a Past-President. Judge King is a member of the California Tribal Court-State Court Forum; Chair of the Arizona State Court, Tribal Court, Federal Court Forum; member of the California Tribal Court Judges Association; and Chair of the Arizona Minority Judges Caucus.

## **Honorable Erica Pinto**

Erica M. Pinto currently serves as Chairwoman of the Jamul Indian Village of California, one of the 13 tribes of the Kumeyaay Nation who trace their roots back 12,000 years in San Diego County, California. Her extensive executive experience gives her a sophisticated grasp on even the most complex aspects of tribal governance. Ms. Pinto has been involved with the JIV Tribal Council since 1997, becoming a Council Member at the age of 21. In 2015, she was the first woman elected Chairwoman of the Jamul Indian Village, an honor she proudly holds today. Ms. Pinto is committed to giving back to her community and to future generations of Tribal members. She is co-founder of the Acorn to Oaks tribal program, which organizes activities focused on culture, youth development, health and fitness, and technology – all designed to help prevent drug and alcohol abuse, teen pregnancy, as well as to promote education and family togetherness. She hopes to build pride in future tribal leaders, so they respect their native heritage.

## **Season Goodpasture**

Season Goodpasture is the Executive Director of Acorns to Oak Trees, a licensed marriage and family therapist, and the clinical director for the Pala Band of Mission Indians. She is a Maidu and Paiute member of Susanville Rancheria. Prior to founding Acorns to Oak Trees, Season served as the director of social services for the Pala Band of Mission Indians for almost 10 years. Through her work at Pala, Season developed an extensive social services program, a tribal foster care program, a child support program, a mental health and equine program, tobacco cessation program, a comprehensive early intervention program., Season's efforts to expand the Pala's Social Service program led to Pala being the first tribe in California to be able to conduct their own criminal background checks and ultimately paved the way for all tribes to do so through the passing of SB 1460.

**November 4, 2022**

*11TH ANNUAL JUDGES' DINNER*  
*FOR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA*  
CHAMPIONS IN COLLABORATION 2022

**Kathy Deserly**

Kathy Deserly has worked in the field of child welfare in Native communities since 1974. She spent twelve years working in tribal communities in Southern California, as Assistant Director of a Native American foster and adoption agency before going to work as a policy analyst and technical assistance specialist for the National Indian Child Welfare Association. Kathy served as Indian Child Welfare Specialist for the State of Montana from 1996-2000. In 2004 Kathy became a founding board member of the Indian Child and Family Resource Center (ICFRC) based in Helena, Montana, a training and technical assistance center for Tribal social service programs, private providers and state agencies. Kathy also served as the Associate Director of the National Child Welfare Resource Center on Tribes (NRC4Tribes) since its establishment in October 2009. Kathy went on to serve as the Associate Director of the Capacity Building Center for Tribes.

**Miryam Choca**

Miryam Choca was on the leadership team for the California Disproportionality Project (2008—2010) as Senior Director for Casey Family Programs. She was co-author on two important documents : Continuum of Readiness for Collaboration, ICWA Compliance, Reducing Disproportionality (2012); and Can't Do It Alone: Housing Collaborations to Improve Foster Youth Outcomes (2004). Her support to address disproportionality in Native American communities resulted in the toolkit of American Indian Resources for the California Social Work Education Center, the video FACES, how to support the Spirit of ICWA, and the very first Judges' Dinner in San Diego in 2012.

**Introducing New Partners**

Acorns to Oak Trees

Child & Family Policy Institute of California

Office of Youth and Community Restoration

Regional Task Force on Homelessness

