



William A Thorne, Jr.

William A Thorne, Jr. is a Pomo/Coast Miwok Indian from northern California enrolled at the Confederated Tribes of the Graton Rancheria. He graduated from the University of Santa Clara and Stanford Law School. He practiced law for several years at Echo Hawk & Thorne, specializing on Federal Indian Law. In 1979, Thorne began his service as a tribal judge at the Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Court. Since then, he has served many tribes as a tribal judge in Utah, Idaho, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, Montana, Wisconsin, Washington, Michigan, and California. After 14 years as a state trial judge, he was appointed in 2000 to the Utah Court of Appeals where he served until retiring in 2013.

Judge Thorne has served as board member of numerous non-profits, focusing on Native American and judicial issues, child welfare and adoption, juvenile justice, education, and racial and ethnic fairness, and continues serving many organizations, including the National Indian Justice Center, the National Child Welfare Resource Center for Tribes (NRC4Tribes) National Advisory Council and on the U.S. Children's Bureau Centennial Blue Ribbon Committee. Judge Thorne is the 2010 Native Inductee into the Stanford University Minority Alumni Hall of Fame. In July 2011, Judge Thorne was elected to the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) Board of Trustees, the first tribal voice on the NCJFCJ board.

Judge Thorne continues to speak and teach around the country, chiefly on issues related to children, including child welfare reform efforts, disproportionality affecting minority children, and the Indian Child Welfare Act.