

FOURTH ANNUAL JUDGES' DINNER
FOR NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
CHAMPIONS IN COLLABORATION 2022

Hon. Anita Fineday

Anita Fineday became the Managing Director of the Indian Child Welfare Program for the Casey Family Programs in 2011. She previously served as the Chief Judge for the White Earth Tribal Nation for 14 years. She holds a Master's degree in Public Administration from the Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Colorado School of Law. She has previously served as an associate judge for the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and the Grand Portage Band of Chippewa. She has also taught federal Indian law and policy at the tribal college, university and law school levels. She is an enrolled member of the White Earth Tribal Nation. She is a mother of two daughters and a grandmother of three. In 2012 Anita attended the first Judges' Dinner in San Diego, California, and gave an impassioned account of her time as a judge for White Earth Tribal Court. Her presentation on the need to unseal pre-ICWA (1978) adoption records made a profound impact and the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of San Diego, Juvenile, stood up and made a commitment to unseal any pre-ICWA adoption records if there was knowledge of possible tribal ancestry. By the next Judges' Dinner a local youth was able to connect with his tribe and attain membership, as his biological mother's records were unsealed due to the commitment of the judge.

Sylvia Deporto

Sylvia attended the University of California at Riverside where she received her bachelor's degree in Psychology and California State University at San Bernardino where she received her Masters' degree in Counseling and Education. She began her child welfare career as a caseworker in El Paso County, Colorado. In 1992 Sylvia returned to Riverside County children's services for 21 years and held positions as a supervisor, trainer, manager, deputy director and assistant director in children's services. After five and a half years as the assistant director leading Riverside County child welfare, she moved to the San Francisco Bay area to be the director of child welfare in the city/county of San Francisco. Sylvia retired in August of 2018 and is currently a consultant and trainer with a focus on the areas of leadership development, coaching, and the Indian Child Welfare Act. Sylvia is currently doing work with both the California Department of Social Services and Oregon Department of Human Services to improve compliance with the Indian Child Welfare Act. Through her leadership and coaching experience Sylvia assisted the Judicial Gatherings by facilitating critical conversations on collaboration, improving systems, and ICWA implementation.

December 16, 2022