



## **Margaret (Margie) Schaff**

### **Member Colorado Bar**

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Boulder, CO 80302  
margieschaff@comcast.net

## **Indian Energy Attorney**

### **1994-Present Native Energy Resources Counsel, LLC**

Law office serving Indian Tribal clients and energy companies with energy and business related legal advice and representation. Experience includes electric utility issues, development of large and small power plants and high-voltage and low-voltage transmission projects, negotiation of pipeline and power line rights of ways and other energy land rights, utility formation, oil and gas leasing operation and management, energy company start-up and financing, business structuring for Indian tribal entities, renewable energy project development, water usage agreements, purchase power contracting, legislative issues analysis, general corporate counseling, tribal law development and implementation, transmission contracting, utility rate issues, federal agency administrative matters including Bonneville Power Administration and Western Area Power Administration, and general Indian law issues.

#### **Example Legal Projects:**

- Formation of tribal utility for Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians, California.
- Formation of tribal utility for Kalispel Tribe of Indians, Washington.
- Formation of utility regulatory body, Kalispel Tribe of Indians, Washington.
- Numerous renewable energy projects.
- Legal Counsel, Rosebud Sioux Tribal Utility Commission, South Dakota.
- High Voltage Transmission Line Right of Way Negotiations, Rosebud Sioux, South Dakota.
- Oil and gas management and development projects, Jicarilla Apache Energy Corporation, New Mexico.
- Formation of Umpqua Indian Utility Cooperative and ongoing power contracting, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua, Oregon.
- Telecommunications utility work, The Lummi Tribe, Washington.
- Telecommunications, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, North Dakota and South Dakota.
- Oil and gas management and development projects, Northern Arapaho and Eastern Shoshone Tribes, Wyoming.
- Tribal utility work, Fort Peck Tribes, Montana.
- Ordinance development, Yakama Nation, Washington.
- Claims pursuant to the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act, private clients, Navajo Nation.
- Navajo Transmission Project, Dine Power Authority, Navajo Nation.
- Power plant issues analysis, Fort Mohave Indian Tribe and Aha Macav Power Authority, Arizona.
- Wind Development Projects, Blackfeet Tribe, Montana.
- Electric Power contracts, Sac and Fox Tribes, Kansas.
- Mni Sose Intertribal Water Rights Coalition negotiations with Western Area Power Administration for tribal power allocations.

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### **2021-Present Schaff Martin Consulting, LLC**

Energy consulting for Indian Tribes, including strategic planning, renewable energy development, tribal utility feasibility studies.

### **1999-2022 Kanim Associates, LLC (Previously SCD Professionals, LLC)**

Consulting experience includes energy efficiency and conservation opportunities, grant writing, monitoring legislation and implementation of laws, strategic energy planning for Indian tribes, Western regional issues, public speaking on topics of interest, coordination of technical meetings, public education on technical issues, education on doing business in Indian Country and other issues related to energy development or business activities on Indian reservations.

#### **Example Consulting Projects:**

- Energy Policy Analyst for Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (57 Indian Tribes) 1995-Present.
- Power transmission planning processes Team Member: Member Regional Representatives Group 1996-2007, (IndeGo, RTO West, Grid West, ColumbiaGrid, Northern Tier Transmission Group.)
- Member, Bonneville Power Administration Non-Wires Solutions Round Table.
- Energy Planning, Colville Confederated Tribes, Washington.
- Numerous technical writing projects related to tribal utility development.

### **2011-2013 Chief Compliance Officer and General Counsel, New West Technologies, LLC**

In house counsel and member of management team for energy consulting firm. Responsible for human resources, and all contractual and regulatory matters.

### **1997-1999 Dames & Moore: Utility Specialist/Indian Energy**

Tribal Projects, gas fired power plant siting and environmental planning.

### **1987-1994 Western Area Power Administration: Office of General Counsel**

**Power Marketing Attorney (GS-13-14)-** Legal Advisor for all aspects of federally owned public utility marketing the electric power output of federal hydroelectric dams in the 15 western states. Duties included review of wholesale electric power marketing and transmission contracts, utility planning, environmental planning and compliance, litigation before Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and utility rate review and representation, advisor to Electro-Magnetic Field Committee; and finance, legislative, and numerous business and regulatory matters.

**Chief Lands Attorney (GS-11-14)-** Legal Advisor for the acquisition of land and the maintenance of over 17,000 miles of right-of-way, and over 500 fee sites in a 15 state region. Responsibilities included title work; condemnation advice and litigation; negotiation for land rights; advice in acquisition of mineral rights; land acquisition planning; environmental planning and compliance; and removal of encroachments. Lands work for California-Oregon Transmission Project.

## **EDUCATION**

### **Management Development Program - Western Area Power Administration, 1991-1993**

Competitive program for utility management training and long-term hands-on experience.

### **Juris Doctorate - University of Denver College of Law, 1985-1988**

Transportation Law Journal.

### **Bachelor of Arts - Quincy University, Quincy, Illinois, 1980-1984**

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- *Seven Generations*, a historical novel of Shoshone tribal history, written under the name Margaret Martin, 2014.
- *Indian Allottee Water Rights with a Case Study of Allotments on the Former Malheur Indian Reservation, Oregon*, 2018, written with Cheryl Lohman.
- *Regulation of Electric Utilities on Indian Reservations: Tribal Governments' Oversight of Renewable Energy Development and Utility Providers and Authority to Create Tribal Utilities*, 2020 41 Energy L. J. 261. [https://www.eba-net.org/assets/1/6/10\\_-\\_\[Schaff\]\[261-283\]\[Final\].pdf](https://www.eba-net.org/assets/1/6/10_-_[Schaff][261-283][Final].pdf)