

Kimberly Craven is a licensed attorney who has spent the bulk of her career advocating for the rights of Native people. She is an enrolled member of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate. She was born and raised in Denver, CO. Her grandmother, Alice Bird Robertson, came to Denver in the 1920s to attend Colorado Women's College and became a teacher for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Her father, Clifford Craven, Jr., was also born in Denver, graduated from Colorado School of Mines and was probably the first Native geophysical engineer. She has instilled this intergenerational love of learning with her 22-year-old daughter, Rachel Plenty Wolf, who attends The Evergreen State College.

Her previous work experience includes being a professional staff member for Senator Dan Evans (R-WA) who was Vice Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs. At that time, Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-HI) was Chairman. During that time and later when she worked for then Congressman Ben Nighthorse Campbell (then D-CO) was when she learned the importance of protecting and exercising treaty rights. She had the valuable experience of working with many tribal leaders like Quinault President Joe Delacruz, Apache Chairman Wendell Chino, Red Lake Chippewa Chairman Roger Jourdain and Onondaga Faithkeeper Oren Lyons who were and are fervent treaty right protectors.

After working in Washington, DC for several years, Kimberly returned to Colorado to attend the University of Colorado School of Law. There she had the honor of studying with Professor Charles Wilkinson, David Getches, Richard Collins (these three wrote the first casebook on federal Indian law) and Vine Deloria, Jr. After graduation, Kimberly and her daughter moved to Arizona. When she returned to work, it was at the Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission in Portland, OR working alongside Yakama Executive Director Ted Strong and other Northwest leaders protecting the treaty fishing rights of the Yakama, Warm Springs, Nez Perce and Umatilla tribal members to fish in the Columbia River. She was asked to apply to head up the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs and did so making great changes to the office including initiating a "Indian 101" government-to-government training program for government employees and creating a matrix of issues that needed to be resolved so that people could track accountability and resolution.

After working in the rainy Northwest for several years, Kimberly returned to the desert of Arizona and entered a graduate program at the University of Arizona Rogers College of Law to obtain an LLM (master's degree) in Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy. Work since then has included being a Director of Grantmaking for First Nations Development Institute, running my own consulting business and working for several years at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

Kimberly has served as Associate General Counsel for the Hopi Tribe, as Chief Judge on the Pine Ridge Indian reservation, and represented the Indigenous Environmental Network on two pipeline cases – KXL and DAPL. She is currently Associate General Counsel for the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. Most of her day is spent reviewing contracts and working on the portfolio of issues assigned to her including Indian Child Welfare Act cases, environmental issues and oil and gas issues. (See resume for entire work history.)

In addition to being an ardent treaty rights advocate, Kimberly has strong writing abilities, is a first-rate problem solver and is steeped in federal Indian law. She is an experienced public speaker and speaks truth to power. She has a very strong work ethic and a passion to improve the social and economic status of Native peoples. Kimberly would very much like to work for the Eastern Shoshone General Council as your Attorney General.

Kimberly can be reached at 303.494.1974 or kimecraven@gmail.com if you have any questions.