

AMY CORDALIS

EXPERIENCE

Counsel and Director, *Ridges to Riffles Conservation Fund*

February 2021-Present

Continued representation of the Yurok Tribe with a focus on Klamath River and tributary restoration; including Klamath dam removal, water rights litigation, fisheries, and habitat restoration activities.

General Counsel (and attorney), *Yurok Tribe*

October 2014-February 2021

Chief legal advisor to Yurok Tribal Chairman, tribal council, and executive management. Responsible for all aspects of legal affairs for the Yurok Tribe, the largest California Tribe with the second largest Indian Reservation in California. Managed litigation portfolio in tribal, state, and federal courts, both in-house and through partnerships with litigation counsel. Managed in-house council, and directed legal strategy on legislative matters, commercial transactions, MOUs, contracts, tribal consultations, jurisdictional issues, and compliance with tribal, state and federal laws. Supervised Department budget, fundraising, and HR. Directed Tribe's legal strategy on \$500 million Klamath Dam Removal project, \$40 million land acquisition effort, fisheries restoration and complex management of the Klamath River, through the Klamath Reclamation Project Operations, compliance with the Endangered Species Act, tribal trust and federally reserved water rights.

Berkey Williams LLP, *Attorney*

March 2013-July 2014

Litigation and advocacy practice focused on representation of tribal clients across the country. Practice included advising tribal councils, conducting legal research, and drafting legal memorandums regarding Indian water rights, tribal sovereign immunity, taxation, employment, land into trust, civil procedure, environmental laws and family matters. Assisted lead counsel in a Pueblo's water rights litigation and land recovery effort.

Native American Rights Fund, *Attorney*

August 2007-February 2013

Practice included representation of Indian tribes across the country on a variety of matters, with a focus on Indian education, water rights, tribal jurisdiction, ICWA, taxation, and treaty and aboriginal hunting and fishing rights. Secured the first congressional authorization of federal funding for tribal education departments, drafted Indian country recommendations for the No Child Left Behind Act and an Indian education bill, provided congressional testimony for same. Worked on Indian water rights litigation and settlements in California, Washington, Oklahoma, and Kansas. Work also entailed coordination and supervision of summer law clerks.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Klamath River Renewal Corporation, Yurok Tribe, Board Member, 2019-Current
- Colorado Indian Bar Association, Secretary 2009-2012, Vice President, 2012-2013
- Native American Law Students Association, President, University of Denver, 2006, National Native American Law Student Association, Secretary, 2005-2007
- Enrolled Yurok Tribal Member, Gillnet Fisherwoman on the Klamath River

EDUCATION

- University of Denver, Sturm College of Law, J.D. – 2007
- University of California Berkeley, Boalt School of Law – 2007 (visiting student)
- University of Oregon, B.A. Political Science – 2003

PUBLICATIONS, REPORTS, & PRESENTATIONS

- Amy Cordalis & Daniel Cordalis, *Vision and Place: John Wesley Powell and Reimagining the Colorado River Basin, Indian Reservations Chapter*, (see, <https://www.amazon.com/Vision-Place-Wesley-Reimagining-Colorado/dp/0520375785>)
- Amy Cordalis, *Reclaiming the Klamath*, Dempsey Family Lecture, Willamette University, 2019.
- Amy Cordalis, *Reclaiming the Klamath*, Public Interest Law Conference, University of Oregon School of Law, 2019.
- Amy Cordalis, *Complex Indian Law Careers*, Federal Bar Association, Indian Law Section, Annual Conference, 2018.
- Amy Cordalis & Daniel Cordalis, *Indian Water Rights: A "Cloud" Over the Colorado River Basin*, ARIZ. J. OF ENVT. L. & POLY (2015).

- Amy Cordalis, *Implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the United States*, AM. INDIAN L. REV. (2013).
- Amy Bowers & Kristen Carpenter, *Challenging the Narrative of Conquest: The Story of Lyng v. Northwest Indian Cemetery Protection Association*, in INDIAN LAW STORIES (Carole Goldberg, Kevin K. Washburn, and Philip P. Frickey, eds., Foundation Press 2011).
- *Tribal Education Departments Report 2010*, Tribal Education Departments National Assembly (2010).
- *Rocky Mountain Region Case Updates*, Federal Bar Association, Indian Law Section Newsletter, (2010-2015).
- WALTER R. ECHO-HAWK, IN THE COURTS OF THE CONQUEROR: THE 10 WORST INDIAN LAW CASES EVER DECIDED (2010) (contributing researcher and editor).

COURT ADMISSIONS

- California Supreme Court
- Colorado Supreme Court
- Yurok Tribal Court
- United States District Court for the Northern District of California
- United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- United States Court of Federal Claims

AWARDS

- “Catalyst Award,” Rachael’s Network, 2020
- “100 Ducks Who Made a Difference,” University of Oregon, 2019
- *Women Changing the World Awardee*,” Conscious Media, 2019
- “Native American 40 Under 40,” National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development, 2011
- *Second Place Overall Advocates*, National Native American Law Students Association Moot Court Competition, *Second Place Brief*, National Native American Law Students Association Moot Court Competition, 2006

SOCIAL MEDIA

Social Media: <https://www.instagram.com/amybowerscordalis/>
<https://www.facebook.com/amybowers>

Articles:

<https://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2020/03/29/business/ap-us-demolishing-the-dams-abridged.html>
<https://www.npr.org/2019/09/29/765480451/tribe-gives-personhood-to-klamath-river>
<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/04/us/klamath-river-california-tribes-heroin.html>
<https://www.hcn.org/issues/50.10/tribal-affairs-how-the-yurok-tribe-is-reclaiming-the-klamath-river>
<https://earthjustice.org/news/press/2020/yurok-tribe-and-commercial-fishing-families-secure-more-water-for-klamath-river-salmon>
<https://www.ijpr.org/post/interim-klamath-plan-means-more-water-fish>
<https://www.aclunc.org/sites/powerthe14th/profiles/amy-cordalis.html>
<https://www.oregonlive.com/pacific-northwest-news/2018/06/how-a-yurok-tribal-lawyer-from>
<https://www.oregonlive.com/news/2019/11/klamath-basin-tribe-water-rights-outrank-farmers-rights-appeals-court-rules.html>
<https://www.motherjones.com/environment/2019/09/some-indigenous-communities-have-a-new-way-to-fight-climate-change-give-personhood-rights-to-nature/> <https://mashable.com/article/social-good-summit-2019-recap/>
https://www.dailymerald.com/arts-culture/annual-environmental-law-conference-pielc-looks-for-common-ground-amidst/article_0a97041a-3fcf-11e9-83b0-8fb212dd710f.html <https://www.registerguard.com/news/2019/11/19/klamath-tribes-win-water-rights>
<https://www.hcn.org/articles/a-new-documentary-tells-the-story-of-the-klamath-river-agreements-2>

Video Links:

Artifishial, Patagonia Films: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I-MMiQ5A1zQ>
 United Nations, Equator Prize Award Ceremony: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QvR1TYRbEbe> United Nations, Equator Prize, Yurok Carbon Project:
https://www.instagram.com/tv/B9nfdQaHRY/?utm_source=ig_web_button_share_sheet
 Social Good Summit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aHyjCxbU4Ic>
 Climate Change Summit, Talanoa Story: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w7phk4GGmtk>
 Public Interest Law Conference, University of Oregon Law, Keynote Speech, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5xr-ljSAdnA>
 A River Between Us, Feature Film: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cIKrnIsQ2fc>